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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

*For the Monthly Magazine.*

HALF-YEARLY RETROSPECT OF DOMESTIC LITERATURE.

EVERY man of observation and patriotic feeling must have remarked with sorrow, the silent but fatal operation of two celebrated bills\*, which passed in a late session of parliament, for the purpose—the *professed* purpose, and so far as the framers of them had no other object in view, the *laudable* purpose of repressing treasonable and seditious practices. Till this period, ever since the revolution of 1688, and indeed for some time antecedent to that memorable era, an unfettered and free spirit of enquiry had been cherished amongst us, and by common consent had, as it were, become naturalized to the soil; genius and talent were called forth, and literature flourished under its influence. This free spirit is now banished from our shore, and in its room

Black melancholy sits, and round her throws  
A death-like silence, and a dread repose:  
Her gloomy presence saddens all the scene,  
Shades ev'ry flow'r, and darkens ev'ry green!

As we have commonly introduced our retrospect with a short eulogy on the state of domestic literature, this comfortless reflection will doubtless seem to militate against our former opinion; but the present observation is chiefly referable to works of a political and theological nature, for “a man is allowed sufficient freedom of thought, provided he knows how to choose his subject; you may criticize freely upon the Chinese constitution, and observe with as much severity as you please, upon the absurd tricks and destructive bigotry of the Bonzees. But,” continues Mr. Burke, “the scene is changed as you come homewards, and atheism or treason may be the name

\* Commonly known by the names, Lord Grenville's and Mr. Pitt's bills; but, perhaps, still more commonly by the vulgar, yet significant appellation of “The gagging bills.”

given in Britain, to what would be reason and truth if asserted of China†.”

We should scarcely, perhaps, have thought it necessary to notice, in this place, the restraint which is imposed on political investigation, did we not anticipate its injurious effects on literature in general, and feel anxious to warn our countrymen before warning comes too late. If timidity once enters into our literary speculations, the flights of genius will be languid, and philosophy must crawl with a slow and tottering step: we shall soon shrink from the deductions of our own reasoning, shall “dwell in perpetual alarms, and startle like Prospero, at the spectres of our own creation.” But let us not give way to these dispiriting impressions in any immoderate and unnecessary measure: the mischief, so far as general literature is concerned, is at present in apprehension merely, as will be obvious when we conduct our readers into the NATIONAL LIBRARY, and point out to them the valuable accession which have been made to it in different departments of science, within the last six months.

HISTORY.

The work which has first claim to notice, as from its subject of peculiar interest to our countrymen, is Mr. Bellham's “*History of Great Britain, from the Revolution to the Session of Parliament, ending A.D. 1793.*” Mr. B. has obtained some celebrity for his memoirs of the Brunswic family, and is indeed the only writer of any respectability, with the exception perhaps of Mr. Macfarlane, who has brought down the history of England to our own times. The period which Mr. B. has chosen for the exercise of his talents is a very eventful one, and could not possibly lead him into that unbecoming and dangerous latitude of expression, or rather virulence of invective, which stained the pages of

† See the “*Vindication of Natural Society.*”

his "*George the Third* \*," He appears, however, even yet not to have acquired sufficient command over his temper for an historian; his characters are often overloaded either with censure or encomium. William, prince of Orange, is so great a favourite, that even the massacre at Glencoe is not suffered to disturb his repose; and the noble energetic resolution of the Commons relative to the dismissal of his Dutch guards is treated as an ungracious refusal of a "natural and reasonable request," and as favoring "much more of faction than of patriotism." The accusation which Mr. Coxe, in his *Life of Sir Robert Walpole*, brought against Mr. Belsham, of extreme negligence and want of candour, is repelled with some degree of success. From the west of Europe, with magic velocity, we now fly to its most eastern corner. In our last retrospect we noticed Mr. Dallaway's "*View of Constantinople, Ancient and Modern*," &c. since which, Mr. Eton, many years resident in Turkey and in Russia, has published "*A Survey of the Turkish Empire*." As the immediate object of these two gentlemen's pursuit was different, so of course is in a great degree the nature of the information which they communicate. Mr. Dallaway travelled as a classical scholar, principally to investigate those mouldering ruins whose former magnificence was the pride of one of the most polished people of antiquity. Mr. Eton, "has been a consul: he has had indirect concerns in trade; as a traveller he has visited most parts of the Turkish empire; in Russia he was for several years in the confidence of the late prince Potemkin, and in a situation to know more of the secrets of the cabinet than most foreigners." Where our two travellers have had occasion to touch on the same topics, we have observed a coincidence of remark which imparts credibility to both; on the whole, however, we are compelled to form a much worse opinion of the Turkish character from Mr. Eton's narrative than from that of Mr. Dallaway. They accord in representing ignorance and haughtiness as united in these Mohammedan conquerors, but we gain more adequate idea from

\* We allude to Mr. Belsham's decisive hostility against Mr. Hastings at the time when that gentleman was under trial. Our opinion concerning the delinquency of Mr. Hastings is perfectly coincident with the opinion of Mr. Belsham, but nothing should have extorted it from us, till a jury of peers, then sitting in judgment on the prisoner, had pronounced their verdict of acquittal or condemnation.

Mr. Dallaway's performance of their ferocious temper, their insulting and barbarian treatment of the humbled and the subjugated Christians. "Every raja (that is, every subject who is not of the Mohammedan religion) is allowed only the cruel alternative of death or tribute; and even this is arbitrary in the breast of the conqueror. The very words of the formula given to their christian subjects on paying the capitation tax, import that the sum of money received is taken as a compensation for being permitted to wear their heads a year." Population is daily decreasing in the empire; a circumstance, which under such a government will not be deemed very wonderful. Mr. Dallaway and Mr. Eton both mention the relaxation of military discipline. From this circumstance, added to the degeneracy of the Sultans and of the people, the latter gentleman considers the expulsion of the Turks from Europe, and the re-establishment of the Greek empire, not merely as a feasible project, but as an event likely to take place in the first campaign of the first war in which the Turks shall be engaged. Surely this is too sanguine a supposition. An advertisement prefixed to the first volume of Mr. Pennant's "*View of Hindoostan*," states it to be part of a most comprehensive work, which that veteran naturalist announced some few years ago, to be published after the death of its ingenious author, under the title "*Outlines of the Globe*;" the present are to form the 14th or 15th volumes of that undertaking. It is impossible to mention the name of Pennant in connection with a literary work, without exciting the highest expectations; the very extended nature of the present, however, forbids us to anticipate minute investigation, whilst the well-earned and established celebrity of the author's character, and the specimen afforded by the present portion, justify us in looking forward to a valuable legacy. The natural history of Hindoostan, and of the marine animals peculiar to its adjoining ocean, as a matter of course, occupies much of Mr. Pennant's attention: he often enters, moreover, into topographical and geographical details, and respecting the island of Ceylon, particularly, corrects the inaccurate accounts of the ancient geographers. The descriptive portion of this work is lively and energetic; the sketch of 'Cashmere,' the region of eternal spring, the paradise of Hindoostan, and the description of the 'Ghaut mountains,' the Apennines of India, are peculiarly picturesque.



picturesque. The charts and engravings which adorn these interesting volumes are executed with elegance, and no doubt with accuracy. "*A Sketch has been published of the War in Vendée, extracted from manuscript Memoirs, written by General Beauvais.*" This sketch is the outline of a larger manuscript history of the same war, intended as a corrective of the account given in Turreau's memoirs. From the table of contents we anticipate much curious information from the publication of the whole. A history of the revival of letters is yet a desideratum in English literature: to the discredit, even of our best historians, they devote whole volumes to the circuitous disclosure of political intrigues, and to the minute narrative of military exploits, while a few pages only are left to record the vicissitudes of science, and to investigate those curious and important causes whose fostering influence has, in different soils, and in different suns, assisted the luxuriant and vigorous growth of literature, or whose deleterious agency has blighted its blossoms, and destroyed its fruit. We are indebted to an anonymous writer for an "*Introduction to the literary History of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries*;" in the first part of his tract he has given a short historical and critical sketch of the decline of learning in the Roman empire down to the tenth century, where its very existence is questionable: in the second part he has attempted to discover and illustrate the principal causes to which, in his opinion, its re-appearance may be properly attributed, "its dawn in the eleventh, and an encreasing radiance in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries." These causes, he conceives, will admit of a commodious division. 1. The Arabian settlements in Europe, and their literary and scientific communications. 2. The Crusades, in their effects on the manners, learning, romance, and poetry. 3. The introduction of the Roman civil law, together with the canon law, into our universities, schools, and tribunals. The third and last part of this excellent tract, exhibits a view of the progress of learning during the 12th and 13th centuries, and particularly of its actual state in different branches and divisions, during the close of the latter period. We know not to whom we are indebted for this ingenious and learned publication, but we flatter ourselves that the author will lay us under still greater obligation by completing the work to which he has given so masterly an introduction. Mr. Walker's

"*Analysis of Researches into the Origin and Progress of Historical Time, from the Creation to the Accession of C. Caligula,*" evinces much industry and much learning: but he treats many theologians, many chronologers and critics of the highest respectability, both as to character and talents, with an insufferable degree of pertness and presumption. In announcing a republication of the late Lord Hardwicke's "*Athenian Letters,*" we communicate to the public a very valuable piece of information: the map which accompanies them, as well as the engravings, are excellent.

From the scarcity, and, we may add, the poverty of publications which have appeared on

#### FINANCE,

we are forced to conjecture that the politicians of both parties unite in opinion, that the less that is said on this ominous subject the better: we presume not to differ from them. Mr. CHARNOCK's "*Letter on Finance, and on National Defence,*" is addressed to those short-sighted and timid people "who are inclined," truly, "to despond at the present posture of public affairs!" We cannot compliment his calculations so far as to say that they have much elevated our spirits. An anonymous financier has offered to the public some "*Observations upon the Act for the Redemption of the Land-tax,*" in which he has shewn "the benefits likely to arise from the measure both to the public and to individuals:" the author of this short tract has supported his panegyric of the measure with some ingenuity. A few other pamphlets have been written on this subject: Sir JOHN SINCLAIR's "*Alarm to Landholders*" is the speech which he delivered against the measure in the House of Commons. Mr. SIMEON POPE has published some "*Interesting Suggestions,*" &c. respecting the land-tax sale and redemption act. His object is to exhibit the advantageous situation in which landholders are placed by it: the pamphlet is well worth attention. The same may be said of "*A Plan for reducing Two Hundred and Thirty Millions of the Three per Cent. Funds,*" &c. &c; also of "*A Plan for raising the Supplies during the War.*" A banker, who has published "*Thoughts on a New Coinage of Silver,*" &c. has evinced much meritorious research and financial knowledge. "*The Theory of the National Debt*" is elucidated with as much minuteness and perspicuity as could be expected from a *sixpenny* pamphlet on the

the subject! The author has added a few observations on the land-tax and the present situation of stockholders. The matter contained in "*The Reports of the select Committee of the House of Commons on Finance, as presented to that House,*" is multifarious and important: the reports themselves are drawn up with precision; and many useful hints are offered for diminishing the public expenditure. We know not where to arrange with more propriety than under the present head, Mr. ALLARDYCE's "*Address to the Proprietors of the Bank of England.*" Mr. ALLARDYCE it seems, moved at a general court of the proprietors, "that there be laid before this court an account of the charge of managing the business of the governor and company of the bank of England: an account of the expence of building: and an account of all other expences incurred by the governor and the company from the 10th of October 1787 to the 10th of October 1797, distinguishing the different years and the particulars under their respective heads." This motion was contemptuously gotten rid of by moving the previous question! In the appendix to this work is much curious information, drawn from documents of unquestionable authority, relative to the stoppage of the bank; such as conversations and correspondence with the minister: accounts of exports and imports; money coined; monies advanced by the bank; amount of treasury bills; amount of the bank-notes in circulation; charter of the bank, &c. &c. &c. a short and animated postscript is added to this very valuable work, in which, with a becoming spirit of independence, Mr. ALLARDYCE reprobates the connection between government and the bank, as disadvantageous to both parties, as prejudicial to the mercantile and manufacturing interests in particular, and in consequence to the public in general.

#### POLITICAL ECONOMY.

Mr. WALLACE's "*Essay on the Manufactures of Ireland,*" was written with a view to obtain the premium of fifty pounds, which the Royal Irish Academy offered for the best dissertation on the subject. This essay, and another by WILLIAM PRESTON, esq. were the two of many others which principally challenged the approbation of the academicians: a committee of three persons was selected to decide on the superiority of one: and it so happened that Mr. PRESTON was nominated a member of this very committee which was appointed to decide on

the merits of his own performance. With infinite modesty he accepted the nomination! the committee sat; the committee decided; and garlanded the bashful brows of Mr. PRESTON! Mr. WALLACE now makes his appeal to the public. He opens his essay with an examination of the comparative value of manufactures and agriculture in a national view, and opposes the opinion of Dr. Adam Smith, that the capital employed in the latter adds a greater value to the annual produce of the country than an equal capital employed in the former. Mr. WALLACE, after having discussed the relative advantages of a home and foreign market, decides in favour of the former: in reasoning on this subject, and on many others in the course of his work, he closely follows the footsteps of Adam Smith\*. On the whole, Mr. WALLACE's *unlaurelled* essay merits much attention. "*Porto-Bello: or a Plan for the Improvement of the Port and City of London,*" is the production of a gentleman to whom we are already indebted for a most valuable work on the "*State of the Poor,*" Sir FREDERICK MORTON EDEN. After having stated the evils resulting from the present state of the port, and the objections which lie against the various plans which have already been submitted to the House of Commons for its improvement, the baronet offers for public discussion his own plan, which he has illustrated by plates. He proposes that a dock should be excavated in Wapping, capable of containing 440 ships: in order to provide the coal and timber trade with a commodious station near the heart of the metropolis: he also proposes that London bridge should be taken down and rebuilt about 200 yards above its present situation; that government should purchase such buildings as may be necessary for warehouses: that new quays be constructed from Tower-Hill to Fish-street-Hill, and that the custom-house be rebuilt in the centre between the two. We are incompetent to offer an opinion on the eligi-

\* We are happy in this and every other opportunity of calling the public attention to Dr. GRAY's admirable illustration of "*The Essential Principles of the Wealth of Nations, in Opposition to some False Doctrines of Dr. Adam Smith, and others.*" Many of the Scotch philosophers' arguments are, in our opinion, unsophistically confuted; and it is seldom that we have seen so much sound sense compressed within so small a compass. See "*Monthly Magazine,*" vol. iv. p. 505, and vol. v. p. 485.



bility of this plan. The anonymous author of "*An Essay on the Principles of Population, as it affects the future Improvement of Society*," has interwoven remarks on the speculations of Messrs. Godwin, Condorcet, &c. &c. In our last retrospect, we mentioned that Mr. Godwin's huge mishapen monster of philosophy had been deeply pierced by the pigmy lilliputian lance of two separate pamphleteers: the giant is now completely slain,

*Vitæque cum gemitu fugit indignata sub umbras.*

The impossibility of that perfect and equal happiness among men which the visionary author of "*Political Justice*" so idly anticipates, is argued from the inability of the earth, if not to find room\* for that immense population which would result from the removal of every slightest obstruction to its increase, at least to supply the food which would be necessary for its existence. The author of this work gives his opponent every possible advantage, and refutes his hypothesis by deductions drawn from indisputable data. Mr. GOOD's "*Dissertation on the best Means of Maintaining and Employing the Poor in Parish Workhouses*†," well merits the honour of being "published at the request of the society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce," the sixteenth volume of whose "*Transactions*" has lately been published. "*The Repertory of Arts and Manufactures*," preserves its character.

#### POLITICS.

The fretful Peter Porcupine has again bristled his quills: in his "*Republican Judge*;" he complains most bitterly against the American judicatory in which his own cause was tried. Mr. COBBET, it seems, is the publisher of a newspaper in Philadelphia, called "*Porcupine's Gazette*," in which he lately inserted such strictures on the king of Spain and his minister plenipotentiary to the United States of America, the Chevalier Charles Martinez de Yrujo, that orders were issued by the federal district court, in consequence of application from his most catholic majesty, for prosecuting the libellist. Peter Porcupine complains of partiality

from the chief justice, M'KEAN; and certainly, his address to the grand jury, if Mr. Cobbet's report of it be accurate, merits the severest reprehension. The comparison which Mr. COBBET institutes between the prosecution for a libel in this country and the prosecution in America, betrays utter ignorance of the proceedings of an English tribunal. We really feel but little disposed to sympathize with Mr. COBBET in his misfortunes: we profess to be warm and zealous advocates for the liberty of the press, and therefore are we eager to restrain its licentiousness. The appeal which Peter Porcupine has now made to the people of England, is so gross, so insulting, so libellous in its language, that we should have felt but little regret to have heard that the federal court had once more taken him under its cognizance. Mr. ANTHONY ROBINSON has given us "*A View of the Causes and Consequences of English Wars, from the Invasion of this Country by Julius Caesar to the Present Time*:" one would almost flatter oneself, that a view of this sort would suffice to show the people how little advantage they in general derive from wars; here the conqueror is stripped of the gaudy trappings, which hide his ferocious features and his blood-stained limbs: the plumage is torn from his brows, and the monster is exposed with all his deformity. We have often been disposed to regret that the challenge to single combat, which the fiery Francis sent to his rival Charles the fifth, was refused by the cold-blooded emperor: his acceptance of it might have introduced a fashion which had saved the massacre of millions. But if nations will quarrel, and emperors decline to fight, why not stake the fate of Alba and of Rome on the swords of selected champions, on the prowess of Horatii and Curiatii, once more? Dr. R. WATSON, of unfortunate publicity, has edited the "*Political Works*" of one of the greatest men of his age, Andrew Fletcher, of Salton: he has prefixed to this edition a sketch of his life, with moral, philosophical and political observations. Sir JOHN DALRYMPLE has published a ridiculous work, "*Consequences of the French Invasion*:" it consists of a number of caricature engravings, representing in succession the consequence "which would naturally, or rather inevitably follow a successful invasion of Britain by France." To excite the commiseration of Englishmen towards the anticipated sufferings of their countrymen, and to inspire them with horror and detestation at the ferocity of their invaders,

\* It has been suggested by a fanciful speculator, that when the present surface of the earth is completely occupied, a second story may be erected for the accommodation of a larger company. See an ingenious essay on population in *The Cabinet*, Vol. i, p. 195.

† For some discussion relative to this work, see our Magazines for November and December last.

vaders, the patriotic baronet has, in one of the plates, represented the speaker of the house of commons as gagged with a drum-stick: Mr. PITT and Mr. DUNDAS are tied by the leg and neck with an iron chain! In another plate is a French major-general administering a clyster to a fat Englishman! Sir JOHN DALRYMPLE seriously supposes that such nonsense as this is to inspire his countrymen with spirit and unanimity to oppose an invasion! The "*Report of the Committee of the House of Commons relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War*," exculpates the national character from the charge which has been brought against it of harsh and uncivilized usage towards those unfortunate captives: we cannot but be of opinion, however, that the committee degrades its own dignity by a paltry unsubstantiated retaliation. From their own report, it appears that the French prisoners in this country have occasionally suffered by the rapacity or negligence of individual contractors: and from a letter of the English agent at Paris, Mr. SWINBURN, it appears, that although similar abuses have, in some instances, taken place in France, the English prisoners are plentifully provided and comfortably taken care of. In our last retrospect we noticed Mr. AUFRERE'S "*Warning to Britons*," a pamphlet in which the outrages of the French towards the Suabian peasants were pictured, we hope, with an exaggerating pencil: a similar publication has lately appeared, exhibiting a view of the atrocities perpetrated by General Jourdain's army, when it over-ran Franconia. This pamphlet is entitled, "*Anecdotes and Characteristic Traits respecting the Incurfion of the French Republicans into Franconia in the Year 1796, by an Eye-Witness*." A translation has appeared from the French of Mr. De Calonne's "*Letter to the Author of the Considerations upon the State of Public Affairs at the commencement of the Year 1798*." Mr. De Calonne, after passing some high, and, we think, ill-merited encomiums on the author, states it as his opinion, that in merely *prolonging* the continuance of the war with France, to be essential to the interests of England, he has only half accomplished what he ought to have had in view; namely, "to shew in what manner the war may be so continued as to produce advantages proportioned to the evils it inflicts, and how to manage, that this necessary calamity may not become an insupportable calamity." Mr. De Calonne considers, therefore, that it is the policy of

England to hinder a continental peace, and to revive a new coalition, not indeed of all the European powers against France, for such a coalition he justly deems chimerical, as we do the probability of that triple alliance of Austria, Prussia, and England, which he seems to anticipate against the common enemy. In this pamphlet are many sensible and interesting observations. "*A Country Clergyman*" in his "*Letter to the Right Honourable William Pitt*," is so *vaissily* facetious, his advice is so humorous and jocular, that we are at a loss to know what the author aims at. Mr. WAKEFIELD'S "*Letter to Sir John Scott, on the Subject of a late Trial*," is written with that forcible eloquence which ever distinguishes his political pamphlets. Bishop WATSON'S "*Charge to the Clergy of the Diocese of Landaff*," is intended as a supplement to his late "*Address*;" one would think it were unnecessary—it certainly is ungenerous—to exaggerate the immoralities of the French. What occasion can there be to *insinuate*, as the Bishop of LANDAFF has done, that the ceremony of marriage has ceased? that French equality signifies a community of property? that the French "strip the poorest of every thing they possess; plunder their cottages, and set them on fire when the plunder is exhausted; torture the owners to discover their wealth," &c. &c. The learned prelate should avoid these idle exaggerations, or he will lower himself to a level with the commonest pamphleteers of the day. A translation has appeared of a small tract, entitled "*Coup d'oeil sur le renversement de la Suisse*:" it is written with indignant eloquence by some one who appears to have suffered from the revolution. The author's account of the political situation of the Swiss peasantry, is very different from that which was given by Miss WILLIAMS (see our last Retrospect). M. LAVATER, in his "*Remonstrance*," to the French Directory, breathes the spirit of patriotism; that the answer which he received from REWBELL was unsatisfactory, will not appear wonderful, when it is known that his request was no less than that the power of France should be withdrawn from the Cantons, and the money repaid which the invaders had seized. Dean NICHOLLS'S "*Considerations on the Present Times*," &c. are animated, but occasionally intemperate. "*The British Mercury*" appears once a fortnight; it professes to give an account of the political state of Europe; M. MALLET DU PAN is the author of this work, which is in



in its infancy. A very curious and interesting (if genuine) volume has been published, containing copies of the original letters from the army of General Buonaparte in Egypt to their friends in France. These letters are said to have been intercepted by us and the Turks. The editor has accompanied them with notes; but he possesses not sufficient dignity and elevation of soul to look on an enemy, though brave, with coolness and complacency: the notes therefore are, many of them, mean and abusive. Among the political squibs of inferior merit, the following, perhaps, may be said to rise above the level of their companions: "*A plain Englishman's Address of great Importance to the Natives of England*," &c. It recommends the oblivion of all political animosities, and the union of all parties in support of government against every effort of the enemy. "*Letters of the Ghost of Alfred*," &c. are addressed to Messrs. ERSKINE and FOX, concerning the state trials. These letters were published in "*The True Briton*," about four years ago: they are written in a strain of invective; though certainly not eloquent, they are animated; though severe, they have not the coarseness and scurrility which abound in publications of this sort. They are contemptible in point of argument; but the sophistry which supplies its place, though very easily detected, is not destitute of ingenuity. The earl of ABINGTON'S "*Letter to Lady Loughborough, in consequence of her presentation of the Colours to the Bloomsbury and Inns of Court Association*," is stamped with the excentricity of its author. Sir ROUSE BOURTON'S "*Address to a Parochial Meeting, held at Chiswick, to consider the propriety of a Voluntary Contribution for the Defence of the Country*," is spirited and appropriate.

#### IRISH POLITICS.

Although the reason yet remains which we before offered for declining to notice the few, and some of them intemperate pamphlets which have appeared on the affairs of Ireland, we cannot avoid recommending to such as are desirous of making themselves acquainted with the distant causes of the rebellion in that country, the perusal of "*A Letter, &c. addressed to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, upon the present State of Ireland*."

The author takes a slight view, indeed, but sufficient for his purpose, of the history of Ireland from the commencement of the present reign, and throws much

light upon the origin of those parties and principles, which have at various times prevailed in that country. He is a decided enemy to any farther emancipation of the Catholics, for which he offers reasons of various validity. Two important state papers have also been published, which throw considerable light on the Irish rebellion, namely, "*The Reports from the Committees of Secrecy of the House of Lords, and of the House of Commons in Ireland*;" the former is reported by the earl of Clare, and the latter by lord Castlereagh. Mr. Arthur O'Connor's work on the "*State of Ireland*" is so intemperate, that no bookseller or printer has affixed his name to it. An Irish emigrant has endeavoured to disclose "*The Causes of the Rebellion*." He appears to be well versed in Irish politics, but in many parts of his statement, and particularly in his invectives, has rather the air of a declamatory advocate than of an impartial narrative. A natural son of lord Carhampton is the reputed author of "*Considerations on the Situation to which Ireland is reduced by the Government of Lord Camden*;" the pamphlet does credit to the literary talents of the author whoever he be, but inexpressible dishonour to his heart. In reply to this pamphlet has been published, "*A Letter to his Excellency the Marquis Cornwallis*," vindicating the conduct of lord Camden from the aspersions contained in it. To this list of publications on Irish affairs we shall add but one more, and that is "*An interesting Letter from Earl Moira, to Colonel M'Mahon, on a Change of his Majesty's Ministers, with Mr. Fox's Letter to the Colonel*." His lordship's letter relates to a scheme which was last year formed by some members of the House of Commons for a new ministry, from which our present rulers were to be excepted, and some of the most obnoxious men of the opposition; among the latter Mr. Fox was ranked; they wished to have lord Moira for their leader. The sentiments of that nobleman prove his high sense of honor and propriety. From Irish, we proceed to

#### AMERICAN AND FRENCH POLITICS.

After the full account which was given in our diurnal papers of the mysterious transactions between the French government and the American commissioners, it is simply necessary for us to mention the titles of a few pamphlets which have appeared on the subject, as a reference for such as may be desirous of acquiring further information

formation concerning it. Our opinion of the business is, that the American envoys were very incompetent to cope with the agents of the French government; the former managed their part of the negotiation with much clumsiness and incapacity, whilst there is every reason to believe that the latter managed theirs with much mean artifice and shuffling. The object of "*An Explanation of the Conduct of the French Government in their late Negotiation with the American Commissioners*," is to disclaim on the part of the former the agency of W. X. Y. Z. Mr. Hauteval is the author of the pamphlet; he appears to have acted merely as an interpreter. The minister of foreign affairs himself, M. Talleyrand, has thought it necessary to exculpate, at least to attempt an exculpation of himself from the disgraceful charges which are brought against him in the business; with this view he has published, "*Strictures on the American State Papers, &c. including the official Correspondence with the American Envoys at Paris*." It appears even from this very pamphlet, that two out of the four intriguers, namely Z. and Y. (M. Hauteval and Mr. Bellamy), were commissioned by the minister to negotiate with the envoys. "*The whole of the official correspondence*" has also been published "*between the Envoys of the American States, and M. Talleyrand on the subject of the Dispute between the two Countries*." "*The Speech*" which Mr. Goodloe Harper delivered in the house of Representatives of the United States, "*on the Foreign Intercourse Bill*," contains an animated defence of America in its late conduct with the French republic.

#### GENEALOGY.

ANDREW STUART, esq. a lineal descendant from the ancient kings of Scotland, has published "*A genealogical History of the Stewarts, from the earliest Period of their authentic History to the present Times, &c.*" This most dry and laborious compilation is executed with great industry and judgment. It will be read with avidity, perhaps, by the wide-spread race of Stewarts; but to the literary world in general, it is surely a most uninteresting work: its utility, however, to the historian is unquestionable. This circumstance stamps a value on Mr. BETHAM'S "*Genealogical Tables of the Sovereigns of the World, from the earliest to the present Period*," &c. The tables, which in general are given from the best authorities, and are drawn up with much accuracy, are so constructed as to form a series

of chronology. "*The Baronage of Scotland*" is an incipient work, which, if judiciously executed, may certainly be of national utility; the first volume only is yet published, of which the greater part was long ago compiled and printed by Sir Robert Douglas: the completion of this extensive work has been reserved for editors who seem more capable of doing it than the baronet who begun it. The anonymous author of a pamphlet entitled "*Reflections on the Augmentation of the English Peerage*," &c. displays much historical and biographical learning. We proceed to the more useful and interesting subject of

#### GEOGRAPHY.

Few works have come before us on this science: Mr. ROBERT HERON'S "*New and Complete System of Universal Geography*," &c. contains a great deal of matter on collateral subjects, history, astronomy, &c. which, although it reduces its value in the eyes of the professed student in geography, must certainly be acknowledged to give it an additional interest to the general reader. MORSE'S "*American Geography*," and GUTHRIE'S "*Geographical Grammar*," with the works of many other respectable writers have largely contributed to Mr. H's useful compilation: a philosophical view of universal history is added to it, which is the original production of Mr. HERON. The name of Mr. CRUTTWELL is already known to the world from the "*Gazetteers*" which he published some time ago, of France and of the Netherlands; he has now enlarged his plan, and published a "*New Universal Gazetteer or Geographical Dictionary*:" This work in point of general accuracy far exceeds any similar publication: it contains twenty-six whole sheet maps, which have received such alterations and corrections as recent discoveries rendered necessary; and when Mr. CRUTTWELL states that "in every article, truth, accuracy, and impartiality have been considered as fundamental principles, and invariably pursued," he claims no merit to which he is not honestly entitled. Mr. PERKINS'S "*Geographia Antiquæ Principia*" is a neat and useful introduction to the knowledge of Ancient Geography.

#### TOPOGRAPHY AND ANTIQUITIES.

Mr. JOHN NICHOLS has published the second part of the second volume of his "*History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester*:" this large volume contains a vast fund of matter, and, if possible, increases the reputation which its author has



has already acquired, for indefatigable diligence and persevering research; the subject of which it principally treats is a very interesting one, namely the religious foundations in Leicester. With much antiquarian and topographical information, Mr. Nichols has judiciously intermingled a variety of anecdotes and biographical sketches. A monument, discovered by the Count Pash of Krinen, in the island of Nios, anciently called Ios, was supposed to be the tomb of Homer, and under that idea it was carried into Russia. Mr. C. G. HEYNE has published with illustrations and notes, "*The Pretended Tomb of Homer*:" drawn by Dominic Fiorillo, from a sketch of M. le Chevalier. From the inequality of workmanship in the sarcophagus, and the mixture of Roman and Grecian style in the relievo, Mr. HEYNE plausibly conjectures, that "some Roman who lived in the island had employed different hands to execute this sarcophagus; or perhaps finding a Greek work in an imperfect state, he finished it. M. Le Chevalier mentions no inscription on the sarcophagus; so that in that particular we are very far from the tomb of Homer." Mr. Salmon's "*Description of the Works of Art of ancient and modern Rome, &c.*" is a compilation of inferior merit: one volume only is yet published. An anonymous writer who seems well qualified for this and more arduous undertakings has published "*A Brief Account of Stratford upon Avon, with a particular Description and Survey of the Collegiate Church, the Mausoleum of Shakspeare, &c.*" a biographical sketch is added of three prelates who derive their surnames from Stratford, the place of their nativity.

## VOYAGES, TRAVELS AND TOURS.

We are indebted to Mr. COLLINS for an interesting "*Account of the English Colony in New South Wales*:" It does not appear that the terrible mortality among the convicts, and the multiplied hardships endured by those who remained alive, had any favourable effect on their contaminated morals: famine repeatedly stared them in the face, but intoxication was resorted to as the "sweet oblivious antidote" of all their sorrows! "Webb, the settler near Paramatta, having procured a still from England, found it more profitable to obtain an ardent diabolical spirit from his wheat, than to send it to the store and receive ten shillings per bushel from the commissary." To the credit of M'DONALD, he forewent the advantage arising from such pernicious traffic, and having a mill, he ground and

pressed his wheat and sold it at four-pence a pound. Mr. COLLINS asserts that no trace whatever of religion is to be found among the natives: they worship no planet, no element, nothing animate or inanimate, natural or artificial. This appears to be the case among the natives of Caffraria. Captain STOUT who commanded the ship Hercules, has published a painful "*Narrative*" of her loss on that coast, on the 18th of June 1796; together with a detail of his travels through the southern coast of Africa and the colonies to the Cape of Good Hope. Notwithstanding these wandering children of nature who are scattered over the African world, these savages as they are called by those civilized barbarians, "those enlightened savages, who, under the appellation of *Christians* and *Dutchmen*, settled themselves by violence on the southern promontory:" notwithstanding these inhabitants of Caffraria have no faint idea of the superintendence of an omnipotent and universal providence, to their humanity and their open unsuspicious hospitality, was the shipwrecked crew of the Hercules indebted for its preservation, protection, and safe arrival at the Cape. Captain STOUT's narrative is drawn up with ability, it abounds with curious facts, and from its simplicity we can have no question of its truth. The reflections which occur are infinitely more creditable than those detestable, narrow-minded sentiments which disgrace Mr. COLLINS's work: we refer to the cursed policy which meets his eulogium, of enchaining the mind of man for the purpose of enslaving the body. Mr. BROOKE's "*Observations on the Manners and Customs of Italy*," if not very novel or profound, are not wholly destitute of useful information: Mr. BROOKE seems to be a good humoured traveller, and is certainly an entertaining writer; his volume abounds with lively anecdotes, many of which, though not absolutely indelicate, are tolerably spicy: the title page of his book is very trumpery—a hand-bill—the hand-bill of a mere quack. It is now upwards of half a century since the publication of "*Astley's Voyages and Travels*;" they have multiplied to such an amazing degree since that time that Dr. MAJOR's "*Historical Account of the most celebrated Voyages, Travels, and Discoveries from the time of Columbus to the present period*," will certainly be regarded as a very useful and seasonable compilation: it is published in twenty duodecimo volumes. While that most intelligent and intrepid traveller Mr.



MUNGO PARK is preparing for publication a detail of his progress among the Lybian deserts, the very respectable "*Association for promoting the Discovery of the interior parts of Africa*" has gratified the curiosity of its subscribers, by printing those of its "*Proceedings*" which contain an abstract of Mr. PARK's account\*. This abstract is abridged from his own minutes by Mr. BRYAN EDWARDS, and the geographical illustrations, as well of North Africa at large as of Mr. PARK's journey in particular, are given by the learned and ingenious MAJOR RENNEL. Some of Mr. PARK's geographical discoveries we noticed in the account just referred to below; particularly the eastward course of the Niger, which is now first settled from ocular observation, and the probability of its junction, not with the waters of the Nile, but with the broad lake of Wangara. Mr. PARK explored the interior of Africa to the distance of 1100 miles in a direct line from Cape Verd: his tract in going was bounded by the 15th, and in returning by the 12th parallel of latitude: he found the country inhabited by three distinct races, the Mandingas, natives of Nigritia; the Foulahs, or white Ethiopians; and the Moors, natives of Arabia. The first, like their southern brethren, the Caffrarians, are remarkably hospitable and kind-hearted: the Moors, like their Arabian ancestors, are wandering shepherds who regard the Christians with such inconceivable abhorrence, that to avoid falling into their ferocious hands was a matter of indispensable necessity: The Foulahs have a sort of intermediate character: without the cruelty of the one or the cordiality of the other. The arrangement of Mr. PARK's materials must be a work of labour and of time, and the publication of his travels will be looked forward to with impatience. A translation has appeared of M. VAN BRAAM'S "*Authentic Narrative of the Journey of the Embassy of the Dutch East India Company to the Court of the Emperor of China, in the year 1794—5, (subsequent to that of the Earl of Macartney)*"; to this very interesting publication is added a neat and accurate chart of the route. "*The Journal*" is published of Mr. S. HOLMES, made during his attendance as one of the guards on

\* Our readers will doubtless recollect the interesting account which in a former volume we were enabled to give them of this society, by the favour and politeness of one of its subscribers. See Monthly Magazine, Vol. iv. p. 369, and Vol. v. p. 449. See also Monthly Review, Vol. ii. of the new series.

Lord MACARTNEY'S Embassy to China: it cannot be expected to contain much information which has not already been before the public. A great deal of very curious and interesting information will be obtained from the perusal of Mr. GEORGE FORSTER'S "*Journey from Bengal to England through the northern part of India, Kashmire, Afghanistan, and Persia, and into Russia by the Caspian Sea*:" The character of Mr. FORSTER (who is in the service of the East India Company) has long since been made known to us by MAJOR RENNEL, and from this character we are authorized to place much confidence in the accuracy of his information. The late Captain George Vancouver's "*Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean and round the World*" is published, in three splendid quarto volumes; this voyage was undertaken by his majesty's command, principally with a view to ascertain the existence of any navigable communication between the North Pacific and North Atlantic oceans; it was performed in the years 1790, 91, 92, 93, 94, and 95, in the Discovery sloop of war, and armed tender Chatham. The vessels passed Destruction Island, and at last entered the supposed strait of John De Fuca, about lat. 48° 20'. Nootka Sound is one part of a cluster of islands within which there is a navigable passage, but on the east of these, the continent is discovered with insurmountable impediments to the long-sought navigation! Nothing perhaps does more honour to the present reign than the spirit of navigation which it has encouraged, and the various voyages of discovery which it has patronised: this spirit was imbibed by our neighbours on the continent; scarcely was the last voyage of Cook made known by the tragical end of the illustrious chief of the expedition, than France projected the plan of a voyage of discovery, in order to concur in perfecting the knowledge of the globe. In the year 1785 an expedition sailed from Brest under the command of the Sieur de la Pérouse, who, like his precursor, Captain Cook, lost his life in the ardour of discovery. La Pérouse's "*Voyage round the World*" is published, in conformity to a decree of the National Assembly, and it is translated into English, in three volumes octavo, with plates. By order of the king, the Academy of Sciences drew up a memoir for the use and direction of the learned and scientific persons embarked under the orders of M. de la Pérouse. The observations made, and the enquiries recommended in this memoir are reduced



to the following heads: 1. Geometry, Astronomy, and Mechanics. 2. Physics. 3. Chemistry. 4. Anatomy. 5. Zoology. 6. Mineralogy. 7. Botany. 8. Examination of the nature of the air. 9. Examination of water. It is consolatory, that notwithstanding the proceedings and discoveries made in the course of the voyage were unfortunate to the lives of Pérouse and his companions, they were not so either to their fame, or the interests of science or society. (For a more particular account, see our last vol. p. 445.) Mr. FELTHAM'S "*Tour through the Island of Mann*" contains much interesting information, relative to its history, constitution, laws, commerce, agriculture, fishery, &c. Some of us recollect with pleasure the tour through this island which Mr. David Robinson published about half a dozen years ago. Dr. MAJOR'S "*British Tourists*" is an useful compilation.

## BIOGRAPHY.

The work which principally excites attention in this department is Dr. BISSET'S "*Life of Edmund Burke*." It is unfortunate for this great man that he has hitherto had no biographer of competent ability, judgment, and impartiality: Mr. M'CORMICK'S memoirs were meagre, and the comparison instituted between different passages in the works and speeches of this celebrated senator, in order to establish a charge of inconsistency, usurped a very immoderate portion of the volume. If, in his narrative, Mr. M'CORMICK, however, appeared somewhat in the character of a counsel for the prosecution, the pleadings of Dr. BISSET in behalf of his client equally remind us of the sophistry and circumlocution of a barrister. Dr. BISSET appears to have had in view two objects: first, to repel the charge which has been so powerfully urged against Mr. Burke, of political inconsistency; the Doctor works hard at this unprofitable task—this sisyphæan labour. Indeed one consequence is obvious: if Mr. Burke remained through life a consistent senator, then all those friends, with whom in the early period of his career he acted in unison, and against whom in latter life he acted in opposition—nay, in decided and inveterate hostility, must take the disgrace of political obliquity on their own shoulders; Mr. Burke's biographer, without hesitation, throws this disgrace upon them! this is the first object; the last, perhaps not the least, appears to be the display of Dr. BISSET'S "variegated powers" and "ratiocinative" strength: how otherwise is to be accounted for,

that multifarious and irrelevant matter with which this biography is burdened? so much criticism, so much metaphysics, so much disquisition, and such sesquipedalian periods! Dr. BISSET, however, is by no means without merit; his volume contains much interesting information relative to the private life of Mr. Burke, and throughout the whole, he has evinced a laudable and large share of industry. M. CLERY, the French king's valet de chambre, has published "*A Journal of what happened at the Tower of the Temple during the captivity of Lewis XVI.*" We scarcely remember that a more heart-rending narrative has come before us! It begins at the epocha of the 10th of August, when M. CLERY was in the service of the Dauphin. We should hope it is quite impossible for an Englishman to form a conception of the brutal and insulting treatment, the infamous outrages which this unfortunate man suffered during his confinement: but if the character of cowardly unfeeling ruffians attaches to the guards of Lewis, in what language are we to express our abhorrence of those meaner cowards, those more hardened and unfeeling ruffians who could employ them! who could expose an illustrious sufferer, a fallen, and now harmless monarch, unprotected, to the scoffs and cruel mockeries of a set of dirty municipal officers! M. CLERY'S journal is written with a mildness the most engaging, with a simplicity and artlessness the most touching! The BISHOP of LONDON has published a new edition (the fifth) of his "*Review of the Life and Character of the Right Rev. Dr. Thomas Secker, late Lord Archbishop of Canterbury*." Dr. SMITH'S "*Life of St. Columbia, the Apostle and Patron Saint of the ancient Scots and Picts, &c.*" contains a great number of marvellous stories, some tending to the glory of God, and some to the glory of the saint; the greater part of which, it is evident, obtain credit from the faithful biographer. "*The Life of the Rev. James Coigley; Observations on his Trial; an Address to the People of Ireland; and several interesting letters*" are published, "all written by himself, during his confinement in Maidstone Gaol." "*The Biographical Memoirs of Eighty living Public Characters of 1798*" are written with accuracy and impartiality; this publication is to be continued annually, and promises to enjoy a large share of popularity. A translation has appeared of Citizen CORANCEZ' "*Anecdotes of the twelve last Years of the Life of J. J. Rousseau*," they are interesting in the highest degree;



degree; few of them being generally known, and all of them elucidating the character of that miserable man.

#### CLASSICAL LITERATURE.

The only work which we can find on this subject, is Professor PORSON'S "ΕΥΡΙΠΙΔΟΥ ΟΡΕΣΤΗΣ." In a former Retrospect we noticed his valuable edition of "*The Hecuba of Euripides*:" it is with great pleasure we announce the continuance of Mr. PORSON'S labours upon this tragedian. To those who are at all acquainted with the exquisite acuteness, the consummate judgment, and the profound erudition of Mr. PORSON, it is quite unnecessary to say how extremely valuable is this edition of Orestes, and how much illustration the play has derived from his masterly skill. It cannot but be considered as the severest censure on the temerity of vulgar commentators, that the learned Professor confines his conjectures to his notes, and with the utmost modesty and caution, never ventures to alter or add one letter to his text but upon the strongest grounds, and in cases of the most unequivocal necessity.

#### PHILOLOGY AND CRITICISM.

"*The Saxon and English Languages reciprocally illustrative of each*," &c. In this work Mr. HENSHALL professes to exemplify the impracticability of acquiring an accurate knowledge of Saxon literature through the medium of Latin phraseology, by the errors of Hickes, Wilkins, Gibson, and other scholars. The laborious efforts of these and other learned men, are reprehended with much arrogance, and from the specimen which Mr. HENSHALL has given of his own "radical translation," of a Saxon MS. it does not appear that his censure is to be justified by any superior accuracy or skill which himself possesses. Mr. MONCK MASON has long been known as a commentator on Shakspeare; he is now endeavouring to rescue, from unmerited neglect, the works of Beaumont and Fletcher, by publishing "*Comments*" on their plays. The honourable annotator displays considerable ingenuity in some of his conjectural criticisms; but he would have shewn more industry, and would have been a more valuable editor, had he rather examined the ancient copies than employed his time in fanciful emendations.

#### NATURAL HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY.

A fellow of the Linnæan society, Mr. Frederick Kanmacher, has published with considerable additions and improvements, a new edition of the late Mr. Adams' "*Essays on the Microscope*." It may not

be amiss to state in the author's words what these additions are: "Accounts of the latest improvements which have been made in the construction of microscopes, particularly the lucernal. A description of the glass, pearl, and micrometers, as made by Mr. Coventry, and others. An arrangement and description of minute and rare shells. A descriptive list of a variety of vegetable seeds. Instructions for collecting and preserving insects, together with directions for forming a cabinet. A copious list of objects for the microscope, and a list of Mr. Custance's fine vegetable cuttings. With respect to the plates, three new engravings are introduced, viz. Plate IV. exhibiting the most improved compound microscopes, with their apparatus. Plate XIV. microscopical figures, and minute and rare shells. Plate XV. a variety of vegetable seeds, p. xix. Mr. Stackhouse has published a second number of his "*Nereis Britannica; or, a Botanical Description of British Marine Plants*." In the preface to the former number were some ingenious physiological observations on the structure and fructification of *fuci*. In the preface to the present number the subject is continued, and the microscopical researches of Mr. STACKHOUSE have enabled him to accomplish what he before expressed a hope that his investigation might lead to, namely, the removal of that opprobrium which rests on this part of the class *cryptogamia*, by substituting some more discriminative arrangement of the *fuci*. Mr. STACKHOUSE divides them into six genera, and assigns to each genus its subordinate species, according to the different modes of fructification. The present number contains the characters, synonyms, descriptions, and coloured figures of twenty species: ten of these are now figured for the first time, and four of them are entirely new. "*Stapelia Nova*:" Mr. Maion has given in four fasciculi, a collection of forty new species of this rare genus of plants, discovered in the interior parts of Africa. The stapelia, from its wonderful continence of water amidst the severest drought, and on the most arid soils, has, by a very elegant and happy similitude, been called "the camel of the vegetable world;" naturalists yet hesitate concerning the source of its supply in those torrid regions where the air and the earth are equally destitute of moisture. Like the camel, it is supposed to imbibe occasionally vast quantities of fluid, and retain them to supply the deficiency of drier seasons; its roots, moreover, seem



to absorb fluids with peculiar activity, and the leaves to perspire in a very small degree. The Linnæan Society has published a fourth volume of its "*Transactions*," containing, it is unnecessary to say, much curious matter. Mr. SYMONS' "*Synopsis plantarum, insulis Britannicis indigenarum*," is executed with much neatness and elegance: the priests of the Linnæan temple are not intolerant, or Mr. SYMONS would not have dared the profanation of its established doctrines, at least, he would not have found it to be a venial crime\*; relying on their clemency, he has ventured to explode from his botanic system the three classes *monœcia*, *diœcia*, and *polygamia*, arranging the plants which belong to them under the classes characterized from number. Some other alterations too are risked; among them are the removal of orchids from *gynandria* to *diandria*; and of viola from *syngenesia* to *pentandria*. Dr. SIBTHORPE'S "*Flora Oxoniensis*" is executed with diligence and accuracy: the same may be said of Mr. FORSYTH'S "*Botanical Nomenclator*." "*Mentha Britannica*;" Mr. SOLE'S new botanical arrangement of the British mints, is illustrated with twenty-four copper plates, and as a work of elegance and taste, might, without any impropriety, have been arranged under the head of *Fine Arts*. Mr. SOLE is of opinion, that good plates are injured by colouring; his plates would certainly; they are executed with the greatest delicacy and correctness. Linnæus left unnoticed many of Ray's mints; Mr. SOLE has included in his arrangement all those which are enumerated both by Ray and Hudson, together with several new species hitherto unnoticed. The three first numbers are published of "*A Collection of Exotics from the Island of Antigua, by a Lady*," the drawings are very elegant; they are executed with freedom and spirit, and are well copied by the engraver. A third volume is published of Mr. DONOVAN'S "*Natural History of British Birds*:" it contains twenty-four plates, but they are not regularly arranged, the consequence of which is, that the same, or similar observations are occasionally repeated. A translation has appeared of Professor RAFF'S "*System of Natural History, adapted for the Instruction of Youth, in the form of a Dialogue*." If some of Mr. ARCHER'S "*Miscellaneous Observations on the Effects of Oxygen on the Animal*

*and Vegetable Systems*," are trite, many of them are new and ingenious; the first part of this work only has yet appeared; in this, Mr. ARCHER has attempted to prove why some plants are evergreen and others deciduous; the latter, he says, yield good oxygen air in the summer clear weather only; the former yield it throughout the year. From this fact, he concludes that the elaboration of oxygen is the only cause of the green colour and peculiar odour of plants in general: if this be true, would it not follow that plants elaborate oxygen gas during the night, instead of azote? if our author allows that they emit azotic gas by night, the green should, at least in some measure, fade, and the odour become faint. Do the dark green plants elaborate more oxygen than those of paler hue? a short appendix, with some of the practical methods for producing fixed air, oxygen air, hydrogen gas, nitrous air, and hydrocarbonate, occupies the last four pages of this instructive and ingenious performance. Dr. TOWNSON'S "*Philosophy of Mineralogy*" is, in many respects, a very useful work: the Doctor first explains the laws by which he supposes the fossil kingdom to be governed; he then enumerates the different materials of which it is composed, and shows the manner in which they are placed; and lastly, considers the characters by which they are to be known. In Dr. DICKSON'S "*Essay on Chemical Nomenclature*," are comprised observations on the same subject by Dr. KIRWAN. In consequence of the many new discoveries in chemistry, both of substances and compositions, some persons of eminence have aimed at the entire subversion of the ancient nomenclature; Drs. KIRWAN and DICKSON, however, have confined their schemes of reformation to those cases only in which the improprieties of denomination are prominent and notorious. These two learned and ingenious gentlemen, therefore, without using such violent and sweeping measures, have contented themselves with correcting whatever in the French nomenclature was inaccurate, and expunging from it whatever was redundant. Dr. KIRWAN states in the introduction, that he is on the eve of publishing a treatise, in which many new terms must of course be introduced: he feels himself necessitated, therefore, to trace the outlines of the system of nomenclature which he has followed, not, says he, "with the presumptuous design of imposing it upon others, but merely from the view of rendering my own future communications

\* Mr. S. is a fellow of the Linnæan Society.



munications more intelligible." The first part has appeared of the "*Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London for the Year 1798*," also the fourth volume of "*Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*;" both these volumes contain as usual, much curious and important matter. The first volume is finished of Mr. NICHOLSON's "*Journal of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and the Arts*;" some few and important papers in this work are new, but the greater number of them are extracted from other philosophical publications, either at full length, or under an abridged form; the abridgement, however, it is but justice to state, is generally clear and comprehensive.

## FINE ARTS.

Mr. DAULBY's "*Descriptive Catalogue of the Works of Rembrandt, and of his Scholars Bol, Livens, and Van Vliet*," would have been a very dry uninteresting volume, had not the author enlivened it with critical observations, which at once display a delicacy of taste, a correctness of judgment, and an acquaintance with the principles of the art on which he writes. Mr. MALTON's "*Essay on British Cottage Architecture*," is a very elegant little work; and we are sanguine in the hope that it may contribute, together with the labours of Mr. PRICE and Mr. GILPIN, to the decoration of the country. All these gentlemen dwell on the necessity of adapting the style of architecture to the scenery; and reprobate with proper asperity the making no distinction between the cottage of a rustic and the shop of a citizen. Mr. MALTON's essay is illustrated with designs and plans, neatly executed in aquatinta. An anonymous North Briton has published an essay towards the improvement of the musical art; it is entitled "*Melody the Soul of Music*:" if melody be the soul of music, yet can we not by any means consent to banish the enrichment which harmony gives from our symphonies and concertos: but what shall we do with our chorusses? Heavens, what profanation to rob of their full complicated harmony, the sublime anthems of Handel, in order to make his music more simple! his tomb in the abbey would open, and the indignant shade of the venerable and injured old man speak in a voice of thunder to the barbarian violator of his sacred strains! We recommend this pamphlet to perusal; it is elegantly written, and our objection is not against the author's love of simplicity but against the extreme into which he suffers himself to be carried by it,

In the present dearth of

## ORIENTAL LITERATURE,

the information will be grateful, that an octavo edition of the "*Asiatic Researches*," is published in London from the press of Messrs. Verner and Hood. The only additional work which we can class under this head, is Mr. CAMPBELL's edition of the "*Indian Observer*," by the late Hugh Boyd, esq. It is to this gentleman that the editor of "*Anecdotes, Biographical, Literary, and Political*," attributes with much confidence the letters of Junius; the present essays embrace a variety of topics relating to criticism and morals; they appeared at Madras in the year 1794, through the medium of a periodical publication, entitled "*The Hircarrab*."

## ASTRONOMY AND MATHEMATICS.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the long-expected publication from the Clarendon Press, of the late Dr. Bradley's "*Astronomical Observations made at the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, from the Year 1750 to 1762*." The first volume is magnificently published under the superintendence of Dr. HORNSBY; it is sold by ELMSLEY and BREMER, at five guineas in sheets. The curious history which attends these valuable papers is well known. Mr. EWING's "*Practical Astronomy*" is not offered to the public, as a complete and scientific treatise, but as an easy introduction to the science, and as calculated to enable those students to solve its problems, who are acquainted merely with arithmetic, the circles of the sphere, and logarithms; the work is executed with judgment. Mr. JOHN WORSDALE's "*Genethliacal Astrology*," may one day, perhaps, procure him the honour of an aerial elevation: Dr. Katterfelto is said to have been more than once under obligations to his renowned black cat, for being tossed in a blanket. A second edition has appeared of Mr. WOOD's "*Principles of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy*;" this work is intended to comprise the substance of the lectures on those subjects which are usually read in the University of Cambridge. The very acute professor of mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, Mr. JOHN PLAYFAIR, has published the "*Elements of Geometry, containing the first six Books of Euclid, together with two Books on the Geometry of Solids; to which are added, Elements of Plane and Spherical Trigonometry*." Mr. PLAYFAIR, in this most masterly work, has endeavoured to unite the exactness of the ancient geom-  
etricians



tricians with the brevity of the moderns; and in his own demonstrations, to avoid the superfluity of the former, and communicate the elegance of the latter. In many instances he has deviated from the edition of Euclid by Robert Simson, but his deviations are invariably defended, nor is it perhaps too much to say, that in most cases at least, they are demonstrated to be essential to that accuracy of solution which is the very soul of the science. FRANCIS MASERE, esq. cursitor baron to his majesty's court of Exchequer, has published an "Appendix" to Mr. FRENCH'S *Principles of Algebra*: both these gentlemen agree in exploding from their system all negative quantities, and contend not merely for the inutility of them, but their absurdity. This appendix, which is larger than the work itself, displays much acute reasoning and mathematical learning.

## TACTICS.

Lieutenant FOSTER, of the first dragoon guards, has translated from the French, the late King of Prussia's "*Military Instructions to his Generals*." If the adage be true, 'that practice makes perfectness,' the art of slaughter must have already arrived at its acme. Mr. CLERK has published the 2d, 3d, and 4th parts, with explanatory plates, of his "*Essay on Naval Tactics*," (the first of which was published about the year 1790); the second part explains the mode of attack from the leeward: in the third part Mr. CLERK has divided the history of naval tactics into different periods, and added some observations on the nature of sails, cannon-shot, signals, &c. in the fourth part he has given descriptions of sea engagements, which took place in the year 1782, and added remarks on each. It must not be omitted, that Mr. CLERK has rendered the science of naval tactics almost unnecessary, by giving the enemy's fleet no credit for exertion or for skill. Mr. NICHOLSON, in his "*Treatise on Practical Navigation and Seamanship*," gives us the result of upwards of fifty years experience: his diction is not very polished, but his judgment is sound, his observations important, and his advice good. Mr. STEWART, in his "*Military Discipline*," &c. inclines too much to severity: his treatise, however, is useful. Mr. WORKMAN has published the first part of the "*Elements of Military Tactics, conformable to the System established by his Majesty's Order*." "*The Light Horse Drill*" is a useful publication, describing the various evolutions, from the first rudiments to the

evolutions of the squadron. Lieutenant-General MONEY's little pamphlet "*On the Use of Chasseurs and Irregulars*," &c. does great credit to his observation and military judgment. "*The Art of Defence on Foot with the Broad-Sword and Sabre*," is an useful tract; the instructions are clear and comprehensive without being tiresome: the more difficult positions are illustrated by correct plates. Let us convert our swords into plough-shares, and from tactics proceed to

## AGRICULTURE AND HUSBANDRY.

In Dr. ANDERSON'S "*Practical Treatise on Peat Moss*," are given directions for the conversion of that remarkable substance into mould, and for the cultivation of it as a soil: Dr. ANDERSON discusses at length the various theories which have been formed as to its production. He suggests the probability of its being a vegetable substance: according to KIRWAN, it consists of clay mixed with calcareous earth and pyrites. Dr. ANDERSON in his present treatise, has united the characters of a farmer and of a philosopher. Mr. MARSHALL'S "*Introduction to the Knowledge and Practice of Gardening*," is an useful manual: as the principles of horticulture, however, are very insufficiently explained, the practical gardener will be chiefly benefited by the work.

## LAW.

"*The study and the practice of the law considered in their various relations to society*" is a work written in a series of letters by a member of Lincoln's Inn: these letters are addressed to a young man of talents and dissipation, offering persuasives to the cultivation of the one, and every possible discouragement to the indulgence of the other. They combine that energy and elegance which add to their usefulness by ensuring their popularity. Mr. HUTTON WOOD, has published the first volume (to be followed by three more) of a "*Collection of Decrees of the Court of Exchequer in Tithes Causes, from the Usurpation to the present Time*." This collection is carefully extracted, by permission of the court, from the books of its decrees and orders: the decrees themselves are arranged in chronological order, with tables of the names of the cases and contents. The present volume carries the series of decisions from 2 Charles II. to the conclusion of queen Anne's reign; from the accuracy of the present specimen we anticipate a curious and useful work. Mr. BOSWELL, clerk to the lieutenancy of Dorset, has published a "*Digest*"



"*Digest of the Acts of Parliament for raising a provisional Force of Cavalry, &c. to the end of the last Session, 37. Geo. III. with Notes and Observations.*" The usefulness of a work of this sort, depends entirely on its accuracy, and the present requires considerable correction. Mr. ORME's "*Practical Digest of the Election Laws,*" is drawn up with accuracy and conciseness, but there have been already so many labourers in this field, that Mr. O. might perhaps have employed his talents in some more necessary labour. Mr. WILMOT's "*Succinct View of the Law of Mortgages, &c.*" is too short and superficial. New editions have appeared of Gilbert's "*Treatise of Leases and Terms for Years;*" of ESPINASSE's "*Digest of the Law of Actions and Trials at Nisi Prius;*" of TIDD's "*Practice of the Court of King's Bench in Personal Actions. Part I.*" and of "CROMPTON'S *Practice of the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas.*" To Mr. RIGGE's "*Observation on the Statutes for Registering Deeds*" are added a collection of cases upon the operation and intent of those statutes; instructions for carrying them into effect and a variety of memorial precedents, suited to the registers of Middlesex and York. Mr. RIGGE states the object of his work to be a "fair and impartial representation of the arguments suggested, and decisions obtained, upon several points relative to registry; but more particularly on that of notice; thereby affording those of his readers who have not already investigated the cases upon which such arguments and decisions are founded, the power to calculate upon their efficiency or danger with very little trouble." Mr. RIGGE's observations are generally pertinent and judicious. Mr. GURNEY has published, with that accuracy and fidelity which for many years have justly distinguished him as a reporter, "*The Trials of James Coigly, Arthur O'Connor, &c. for High Treason, under a Special Commission at Maidstone.*" If our memory deceives us not, the Attorney-General pledged himself to prosecute the Rev. ARTHUR YOUNG, for an attempt to poison the stream of justice, by influencing certain jurymen from the hundred of Blackburn, to hang the prisoners at all events, whatever might be the evidence: it is well known that in consequence of this attempt, all the jurors from that hundred were struck out. We have not the slightest reason to question, but, on the contrary, have every reason not to question the Attorney-General's intention of fulfilling

his promise; to delay however, is to torture: and we are no advocates for torture, even of the vilest miscreant that crawls the earth. "*The Proceedings of a General Court Martial, held on Major General Maurice Wemyss, at the Marine Barracks,*" for disobedience of orders, neglect of duty, and unofficer and ungentlemanlike conduct are published: the prisoner was found guilty of the first and second charges, and part of the third; but, says major general Wemyss, it was the interest of a great majority of the court-martial to find me guilty, for "by my dismissal from my command, every member of the court-martial (excepting generals SOUTER and INNES) got a step; three of them immediate promotion, &c. This detail of promotion which in fact they voted to themselves, by voting me to be dismissed from the service, needs no comment." Mr. WILLIAMS's "*Abridgment of Cases Argued, &c. in the Courts of Law,*" during the present reign is an useless addition to the number of law books. Dr. DE LOLME's "*General Observations, &c. on testamentary dispositions were occasioned by the Will,*" which has excited so much disputation, of the late Mr. Peter Thelluson. The Doctor's observations have all the acuteness and pertinence for which he has long been distinguished.

#### MEDICINE, PHYSIOLOGY, AND ANATOMY.

*Medicine.* From the situation of Mr. BLAIR, as surgeon of the Lock Hospital, an establishment exclusively appropriated to the cure of *lues venerea*, much novel and important information will naturally be expected from his "*Essays on the venereal disease and its concomitant affections:*" thus situated, it was obviously his duty, and Mr. BLAIR considered it as such, to institute a fair and extensive trial of the new antivenereal remedies in every stage of this disease, and to lay the result of his observations before the public: the present work, however, is not very rich in remark: it is useful, nevertheless, as containing a variety of cases, and as it teaches us, what we ought long since to have learnt, the folly of implicit confidence in specifics. The antisyphilitic powers of oxygen have of late been very confidently asserted: and the successful application of oxygenated substances in particular cases had gone far to confirm the omnipotence of acids: in the present Essay, however, (one only is come before us) Mr. BLAIR has minutely detailed a great number of cases in which the nitric acid and the oxygenated muriate of potash were



were fairly and fully—and inefficaciously applied: some patients were relieved, and some few cured; but so precarious are the benefits with which the application of oxygen is attended, that it seems *not improbable that we shall soon return to mercury*. In the third volume of Dr. FERRIAR'S "*Medical Histories and Reflections*," the author says that he has made frequent trials with the nitric acid in syphilis, but without obtaining the advantage from it which he was taught to expect: like Mr. B. however, he is of opinion that it may be useful in certain stages of the disease, although neither the extent or (nor) permanency of its effects are (is) yet ascertained." The first paper of this volume contains some ingenious and novel observations on *rabies canina*. Dr. HAMILTON has published a second edition, with additions and corrections, of his "*Remarks on Hydrophobia*;" this work contains a great deal of most valuable matter: the Doctor has spared no pains in collecting facts and opinions, ancient as well as modern; but the style is so inaccurate, and the arrangement so very defective, as certainly in some degree to detract from the merit of the work. But Dr. HAMILTON has lost his sight: we ought rather to wonder, therefore, that his style is not more inaccurate, and his arrangement more defective. Dr. FORDYCE has published *A Second*," and the first part of his *Third Dissertation on Fever*." In these as in his former tracts, Dr. FORDYCE displays much ingenious reasoning and novel remark: his history of symptoms is minute, and evinces that he has marked their progress with much niceness and precision. Dr. Jenner's, "*Enquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolæ Vaccinæ*" is extremely curious, and much benefit, it is probable, will result to the public from the prosecution, which he promises, of his investigations. This disease was discovered in some of the western counties of England, and is known by the name of the Cow-Pox: it bears a very striking resemblance in its symptoms, its appearance, and in the nature, though happily not in the degree, of its effects, to the small-pox: the principal difference consists in this, that the fluid of the cow-pox remains limpid nearly to the time of its total disappearance, and never becomes purulent, as in the direct small-pox, and that the former is local, while the latter is general. The disease appears on the nipples of cows, in livid irregular pustules, surrounded by inflammation; it is communicated to those em-

ployed in milking, and any person who has been once affected with it, will never afterwards take the small-pox, either by exposure to variolous effluvia or by the inoculation. From the establishment of this very important fact, Dr. JENNER purposes to substitute the inoculation of the cow-pox, for that of the small-pox; the following advantages are stated to result: 1st, It clearly appears that the former process would leave the constitution in a state of perfect security from the infection of the small-pox. 2dly, In the cow-pox no eruption of pustules takes place over the body. 3dly, The disease when received, cannot be communicated to other persons by effluvia; nor perhaps by simple contact unless there be some abrasion of the cuticle. 4thly, No fatal effects have ever been known to arise from the cow-pox, even when impressed in the most unfavourable manner. It is ardently to be hoped that this subject will meet with that minute attention which its extraordinary consequence demands. A second and corrected edition is published of Dr. Hamilton's very useful work, on "*The Duties of a Regimental Surgeon, &c.*" It will excite no surprise that a great deal of curious and valuable matter is to be found in the volume which has appeared of "*Medical Records and Researches*," when it is known that the principal contributors are Dr. HAIGHTON, Dr. BABINGTON, and Mr. ASTLEY COOPER. That metallic substances have some influence on the animal system is scarcely to be doubted, since the experiments of Galvani (see Monthly Mag. vol. iii. p. 348); Mr. BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS has published, what he calls, the discoveries of his father Dr. PERKINS of Connecticut, relative to "*The Influence of Metallic Tractors on the Human Body, &c.*" In the perusal of Mr. PERKINS's pamphlet we cannot but say, that the numerous list of diseases which vanished at the magic of these tractors in some measure reminded us of Dr. Brodum's panaceas: we were particularly suspicious when we found that Mr. PERKINS had taken out a patent for selling his tractors in this kingdom, and that he offers them at five guineas a set; we were disposed, however, to a more favourable opinion, when he says concerning them, that "instead of being successful only among the lower classes of mankind who are most subject to credulity and imposition, they have hitherto been chiefly used among men of science and respectability, who have often been dis-



posed at first to treat them with ridicule and contempt, from a persuasion that the operations were all a fallacy." Dr. P. has met with a warm admirer in Mr. LANGWORTHY of Bath, who has published "*A View of the Perkinian Electricity*," &c. containing a variety of successful experiments on the efficacy of metallic tractors. Doctors DUNCAN sen. and jun. have published their "*Annals of Medicine for the Year 1797*." It is continued on the old plan of the "*Medical Commentaries*," and contains matter of very unequal merit: respecting the notices of foreign publications, Dr. DUNCAN promises that they shall be numerous and interesting *when* the free uninterrupted communication with the Continent shall have been restored. Dr. MILLER has published some "*Observations on the Conduct of the War*," &c. and on the state of medicine in England, and of military medical arrangements in the army and navy. Dr. MILLER, it seems, communicated some years ago to his majesty's ministers, some plans for arrangements in the medical departments of the army and the navy: they were rejected, and he submitted them to the ministers of France, at that time we were at peace with that country. The Doctor has the modesty to attribute the advantages which the French armies have had over all the rest of the soldiers in Europe to the regulations contained in his plan! Mr. BLAIR's, "*Soldier's Friend*," is an useful little work, addressed to the officers of the British army on the means of preserving the health of military men. Mr. WISE's "*One Hour's Advice Respecting their Health to Persons going out to the Island of Jamaica*," is well worth acceptance. Dr. JACKSON's "*Cautions to Women respecting the State of Pregnancy*," &c. &c. merit attention; this little work instructs women in what manner to manage themselves during and after the process of parturition, and gives very useful and salutary maxims for the management and nurture of infants. The "*Experiments*," which Mr. CRUIKSHANK originally published in the year 1779, "*on the Insensible Perspiration of the Human Body, shewing its Affinity to Respiration*," are now republished with additions and corrections. A new and improved edition is also published, of Dr. UNDERWOOD's very valuable "*Treatise on the Disorders of Childhood*."

*Physiology.* Dr. CRICHTON's "*Enquiry into the Nature and Origin of Mental Derangement*," is a valuable and very in-

genious work: it comprehends a concise system of the physiology and pathology of the human mind, and a history of the passions and their effects: Dr. CRICHTON classes the causes of insanity under four heads: 1st. physical or corporeal causes: 2dly, over-exertion of the mental faculties: 3dly, a disproportionate activity of some of the said faculties: and 4thly, the passions, or their influence. We are sorry to be prohibited by the limits of our retrospect from entering somewhat fully on the merits of this performance. "*Observations on Insanity*" have been published by a gentleman whose situation has unquestionably afforded ample scope for making them, Mr. HASLAM, apothecary to Bethlem Hospital; Mr. HASLAM supposes the sound mind to consist in a harmonized association of its different powers, and to be constituted in such a way, that a defect in any one produces irregularity, and most commonly derangement, of the whole; he thinks, therefore, that the different forms under which the disease is observed might be arranged according to the powers which are principally affected. "As some very erroneous notions have been entertained," says Mr. HASLAM, concerning the state of the brain, and more especially respecting its consistence in maniacal disorders, I have been induced to examine that viscous in those who have died insane, and have endeavoured with accuracy to report the appearances." A history is given of these appearances in seventy nine cases, and this forms a very valuable part of the work; as in almost every one of them the brain presented some morbid phenomenon: but, says Mr. HASLAM, it may yet be a matter affording much diversity of opinion, whether these morbid appearances of the brain be the cause or the effect of madness; they have been found in all states of the disease. He believes mania and melancholy to be produced by the same disease: they frequently alternate in the same patient, and dissection can detect no difference in appearance. Many judicious observations are introduced relative to the plan of managing maniacal patients, so as to produce beneficial changes; and Mr. HASLAM's work, will unquestionably be considered as a valuable acquisition. Dr. WILSON's "*Experimental Essay on the manner in which Opium operates on the Living Animal Body*," is ingenious; we are not disposed to say so much concerning the "*Essays Physiological and Philosophical, on the Distortion of the Spine, the Motive Power*"



*Power of Animals, the Fallacy of the Senses, and the Properties of Matter*, by C. H. Wilkinson, Surgeon." Mr. COLEMAN, professor in the Veterinary College, has published the first volume of his "*Observations on the Structure, Economy, and Diseases of the Foot of the Horse, and on the Principles and Practice of Shoeing*." Mr. COLEMAN disgraces himself by his intemperate and arrogant invective against the former practisers of the art of shoeing: supposing the professor's opinions to be invariably right, and that he has discovered the precise use of every part of the horse's foot, it would have been no derogation of his dignity to have offered those opinions and that discovery with diffidence. The professor, however, asserts with very unbecoming positiveness, and seems to make no distinction between his theories and well-established facts. There is every reason to believe that his reasoning is not always correct, and that his physiological remarks are not always sound. Mr. COLEMAN may fill the professor's chair with much credit, but his honours do not authorize him to arrogate an exclusive possession of veterinary knowledge.

*Anatomy.* Mr. CHARLES BELL has published two parts of "*A System of Dissections*," &c. illustrated with plates. Mr. BELL, after having lamented that many a young man who begins anatomical labours with a true conviction of the importance of the subject, and a determined resolution to combat the difficulties which oppose him, soon feels himself bewildered, and is obliged to give up the pursuit in despair, for want of a proper plan and system of proceeding, states his own work to be an attempt to remedy this evil. The object of it, therefore, is to assist the student in acquiring a knowledge of practical anatomy, in gaining a local memory of the parts, in learning to trace them upon the dead subject, and represent them to his own mind upon the living body. Dr. BAILEY has published "*An Appendix*" to the first edition of his "*Morbid Anatomy*," &c. a second edition having been published of this useful work, to which the author had made considerable additions and improvements; this appendix, in order that the purchasers of the first might be accommodated, is given separately.

#### THEOLOGY AND MORALS.

Three volumes of "*Sermons on Practical Subjects*," by the late Dr. Enfield, are just published, for the benefit of his widow; they were prepared for the press

by himself, and are now introduced with a biographical account of the author, by his old and intimate friend, Dr. AIKIN. We have read, and profited by the reading of these Sermons: they display the soundness of the author's intellect, and the goodness of his heart: the style of them is easy, yet dignified familiar, yet impressive; the sentiments are unexceptionably generous, liberal, and manly; the theology is rational, and free from every mysterious, or unintelligible proposition: a full unruffled stream flows through them, of the purest piety, and every page inculcates active and unlimited philanthropy. "A man's writings have often proved very inadequate tests of his dispositions. Those of Dr. Enfield, however," says his biographer, "are not. They breathe the very spirit of his gentle and generous soul. He loved mankind, and wished nothing so much as to render them the worthy objects of love. This is the leading character of the discourses here selected for publication; as it is indeed of all he composed. May their effect equal the most sanguine wishes of their author!" How different—how diametrically different in point of style, sentiment, and doctrine, are the "*Sermons on various Subjects*," which a Mr. GLASSE has published! Mr. GLASSE is well known as an orthodox divine; and he seems to consider that it would derogate from that strict orthodoxy in which he prides himself, were he to hold fellowship with a heretic, or tolerate an unbeliever. Mr. GLASSE endeavours to shew, "that to believe in God, without believing in Christ, is vain and fruitless—*nay, that it is impossible*." What miraculous powers must the followers of Mahomet and Moses have, to perform impossibilities! "Nor shall I scruple the assertion," continues this accurate logician, "harsh as it may sound, that he who is not a christian, is virtually thought, not nominally, an atheist—and that to believe in God and Christ, is one inseparable act of faith; is indeed only one operation of the mind." The preacher throughout is impatient of contradiction; his assertions are positive; he is often disgustingly dogmatical, and often ridiculously intemperate. A posthumous volume of Mr. SOWDEN's "*Sermons on various Subjects*," have lately been published; they were not prepared by the author to meet the public eye; notwithstanding which, they will not shrink from the test of candid examination: they are plain, affectionate, and practical. Mr. CLARE has published a volume



a volume of posthumous "*Sermons*," by the Rev. Samuel Bishop, some of whose poetical compositions are well known: these sermons are chiefly upon practical subjects; they are pious and intelligent. Mr. HUTTON, to his "*Appeal to the Nation on the Subject of Mr. Gilbert Wakefield's Letter to W. Wilberforce, Esq.*" has subjoined "*Four Sermons on important Subjects, connected with the Appeal:*" Mr. HUTTON is a man of strong understanding, but he has not imbibed sufficiently the spirit of christianity, or he would have been more decent and temperate in his controversial writings: Mr. WAKEFIELD's irritable temper ought not to disturb the tranquillity of his antagonist. Mr. CLARKE's "*Naval Sermons, preached on Board his Majesty's Ship the Impetueux, in the Western Squadron, during its services off Brest*," &c. are plain and appropriate. The single sermons of the last six months are, as usual, very numerous; it will be sufficient to specify a few of the best and a few of the worst. Among the former is to be noticed as a discourse of pre-eminent merit, "*Rome is fallen!*" by FRANCIS WRANGHAM, M. A. Mr. WRANGHAM is a member of the Church of England, and a member who does honour to the establishment; his sermon on the Fall of Rome, breathes the spirit of christianity; and it is written in a strain of eloquence, bold and impressive. The notes, with which it is illustrated, evince the author to have enriched his mind with the treasures of ancient and modern literature; and the appositeness of the subject having induced him to assert an extract from his own unpublished poem "*On the Destruction of Babylon*," we are treated with a favourable specimen of Mr. WRANGHAM's poetical abilities. The Rev. CHARLES DAUBENY has most unluckily selected the "*Fall of Papal Rome*" for the subject of one of his sermons: nothing could possibly be more unfortunate! The Lord Bishop of Bristol's "*Sermon, preached before the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, on Wednesday, March 7th, 1798, being the Day appointed for a General Fast*," is a fine specimen of military eloquence; it would have been very appropriate had their lordships been on the eve of a desperate engagement with the enemy. Mr. WICKES's sermon on the same day and on the same occasion, is an adulatory and most obsequious composition. Mr. NISBETT's "*View of the Nature and Design of Public Fasts*," was occasioned by Peter Pindar's Satire on Fasts. This sermon contains many judi-

cious observations; but surely the preacher adopts a very Hibernian method of justifying fasts on christian principles, when he takes all his scriptural quotations from the Old Testament. Does no one of the four Evangelists say any thing on the subject? Dr. WILLIS's "*Sermon on the Consecration of the Colours*," &c. is published for the benefit of the Foundling Hospital; like Mr. GLASSE's "*Association Sermon*," it contains an animated exhortation to war. The sentiments of Mr. GREGOR's "*Sermon*" are liberal, and the language is eloquent. Mr. PARTRIDGE's explanation and vindication of the 109th Psalm, do him credit: it seems now to be fully ascertained, that the imprecations are only recited by David, as uttered by his enemies against him. In Mr. ANMER's "*Consideration on the Doctrines of a Future State and the Resurrection, as revealed, or supposed to be so, in the Scriptures*," &c. we discover much solidity of judgment, much candour, modesty, and unaffected piety. Sir RICHARD HILL's "*Apology for Brotherly Love*," is addressed, in a series of letters, to the Rev. C. DAUBENY: the former of these polemics is a zealous advocate for the calvinistic scheme of divine grace, and combats with much care Mr. DAUBENY's arminian arguments. It is poor praise—and yet it is all the praise he merits—to say of Sir R. HILL that he is less dogmatical and intolerant than his opponent: in point of ability he has a more evident advantage. "*Vetus Testamentum Græcum, cum variis Lectionibus:*" Mr. HOLMES has published the first volume of this work, which displays much industry and learning; the text which he has followed, is that of the Vatican folio, printed in 1587. "*A Translation of the New Testament from the Original Greek*," has been humbly attempted, to use his own modest and becoming words, "*by Nathaniel Scarlett, assisted by Men of Piety and Literature.*" Generally speaking, this is a considerable improvement of the vulgar version, which, however, is properly made the basis of the present; the great alteration is in single words, and this alteration has, in most instances, made the sense more clear and intelligible to common readers. This work is moreover published in a better mode than the common translation: the testament is not disfigured by the use of verses, which continually mar the sense and destroy the emphasis; the numbers, however, are retained in the margin. Another very judicious change is made: the subject is put



at the head of each paragraph, and the different speakers in the dialogue are mentioned at the head of their respective speeches. The gospel was originally proclaimed to the poor; every thing which facilitates the understanding of that gospel is desirable; and every attempt to make it thoroughly intelligible is highly praise-worthy. "*The lawfulness of defensive War upon Christian Principles, impartially considered, by a Clergyman of the Church of England,*" is a pamphlet which may be read with pleasure and with profit. The object of Mr. GLASSE'S "*Essay on the Character of the Apostles and Evangelists,*" is to distinguish between enthusiasm and inspiration, and then to apply his principles of test to such as have laid claim to the latter: this work reflects credit on the abilities and piety of the writer, and therefore will be read with pleasure. In "*The Layman's Address to the Clergy of England,*" are discovered, with much candour and sound argument, many important subjects relative to the interests of the established religion of this country: we agree with the author in considering as extremely detrimental to those interests, the small stipends paid to curates, pluralities, non-residence, &c. &c. Respecting the first-mentioned grievance, we are favoured with the statement of eleven livings, the annual value of which is 4130l. the whole duty is performed for 407l. 17s. 6d. "Now it will be asked by the man of independency," says the author of this little tract, "Does the payment of the overplus 3724l. 2s. 6d. for ease (I had almost said for indolence) assist the cause of religion? Consider this well." A pamphlet of very similar nature are, "*Reflections on the Clergy of the Established Church.*" A country incumbent has addressed some very pertinent "*Considerations to the Clergy on the Propriety of their bearing Arms, and appearing in a military capacity:*" he expresses his disapprobation of uniting the ecclesiastical and military characters. The bull issued from Lambeth, has rendered these 'Considerations' now unnecessary. An anonymous writer has given us some "*Arguments illustrative of the ground and credibility of the Christian Religion;*" but they are too meagre to be very serviceable. Mr. MEYER, from whose pamphlet we conjecture him to be a methodist, has published "*A Defence of Sunday Schools,*" in a series of letters addressed to the Rev. M. OLERANSHAW, who, in a sermon had attacked the modern mode of conducting them. Mr. O. in

conformity to the Levitical law, considers the sabbath to be a day *exclusively* appropriate to religion: apparently forgetting the christian maxim, which says, it is lawful to do good on the sabbath-day; it appears to us, that if one of Mr. OLERANSHAW'S neighbour's sheep were to fall into a pit, there it might lie for assistance till some unconsecrated hour should arrive. With these ideas, Mr. O. considers the teaching of poor children at Sunday schools, either writing, accounts, or reading any thing but what is sacred, as a profanation of the Lord's Day! It does not appear that he has any objection to their learning to sing psalms, or to their learning to make a bow when the parson approaches, or when any body else approaches with a tight coat upon his back. Mr. MEYER has replied to the dogmatical reflections of his antagonist, with spirit, with candour, and with sound argument: he contends, and we contend with him, that the utility of Sunday schools is proportionate to the extensiveness and liberality of the plan on which they are conducted. Mr. FELLOWES'S "*Picture of Christian Philosophy,*" is executed with the skill of an artist: the outlines are bold and expressive, but here and there the colouring is defective. A layman's "*Letter to a Merchant, Member of the House of Commons, on his public Declaration that he sees no business Bishops have in Parliament,*" is written with vivacity and humour. A Roman Catholic Bishop, Citizen Gregoire, bishop of Blois, has written "*A Letter*" to Don Raymond Joseph D'Arce, archbishop of Burgos, chief judge of the INQUISITION in Spain, upon the necessity and advantage of suppressing that most odious and detestable of all odious and detestable tribunals. This little tract, which is translated into our own language, does great honour to the understanding and feelings of the reverend Frenchman; it is written with the spirit of a christian, and in the language of a gentleman. The arguments which it adduces, must to an unprejudiced, an uninterested, and humane mind, carry irresistible conviction: that they may carry conviction to him to whom they are immediately addressed, and that the conviction may ultimately and speedily produce the utter annihilation of the inquisitorial tribunal, is our most hearty wish, and our most fervent prayer! A second edition has appeared of a contemptible work entitled "*The Deportment of a Married Life,*" &c. Mr. Bowan's "*Thoughts on the*



*the Necessity of Moral Discipline in Prisons, as preliminary to the Religious Instruction of Offenders,"* &c. do great honour to his heart.

## POETRY.

We consider it as highly creditable to the taste of the public, that of late three several editions should have been demanded of the "*Poems*," of Mr. COWPER, whose exquisite fancy, whose chaste and delicate taste, whose refined feeling, and cultivated understanding, place him foremost in the choir of poetic spirits: of the moral effusions of Mr. COOPER, and all his effusions are moral, it may be said, that as their object is, so also is their effect,

To wake the soul by tender strokes of art,  
To raise the genius, and to mend the heart.

The Rev J. H. TODD has published, *cum notis variorum*, a new edition of *Comus*: it contains much new matter, though perhaps of a nature not generally interesting: a very minute account is given of the early and recondite annals of Ludlow Castle, in which *Comus* was performed; and several particulars concerning the Bridgewater family, three of whom acted parts in the masque, together with a copious biographical memoir of Henry Lawes, who performed the part of the *Spirit*, and set the songs to music. By permission of his grace, Mr. TODD has gratified the public with a complete copy of *Comus*, taken from an original MS. belonging to the duke of Bridgewater's library at Ashridge. This must be considered as a valuable curiosity. We cannot say that Mr. BUDWORTH'S "*Windermere*" contributed much to revive in our memories the scenery round that charming lake, among which we have rambled many a careless, many a happy hour: it is beyond the powers of Mr. BUDWORTH, to make the herbage, the hills, and the vallies,

Live in description, and look green in song.

We have read Mr. MAURICE'S "*Crisis*" with feelings rather of pity than of indignation, that he should suffer himself to be so hurried away by the intemperance of his passions, as to forfeit the character which becomes him as a man and as a christian. The Rev. Mr. MAURICE here sounds the trumpet for eternal war with France: he is the open advocate for "unextinguishable animosity!" To prove that we do not slander this preacher of Christ's holy and forgiving gospel, we shall transcribe the following lines; they are ad-

ressed to Britons; but, Britons will shudder at such horrible impiety:

"True to the charge which God and Nature gave,

View, as a wall of brass, that rampire wave:  
Still lift the warding shield, the hostile lance,  
Concord with all the world, but war with France.  
Her threats despise, her proffer'd friendship spurn:  
Immortal let your rooted hatred burn!"

For shame—in what page did Thomas Paine ever offer a more gross insult to christianity than this is? Mrs. MONTE-LIEU has translated, (though anonymously) "*The Gardens*," from the French of the Abbé de Lille, with a degree of spirit, elegance, and fidelity, that does credit to her taste and poetic talents: this volume is embellished with vignettes from the exquisite graver of BARTOLOZZI. The author of an "*Epistle in Rhyme to M. G. Lewis, Esq.*" &c. is a man of some fancy and genius: his lines are many of them "deep, majestic, smooth, and strong:" we differ from him, widely as the east is from the west, concerning the merits of Mr. LEWIS'S productions. "*Extracts from the Works of the most celebrated Italian Poets: with translations by admired English Authors:*" the selection is good, and the volume entertaining. "*Coombe Ellen*," is a romantic spot in Radnorshire; its beauties have lately been celebrated by Mr. BOWLES, a gentleman of high poetic talents; it is Mr. BOWLES'S first Essay in blank verse, and does him great credit. Mr. BOWLES, aware of the insipid monotony of mere description, has intermingled with the happiest effect, many moral effusions and religious sentiments; by this means he has imparted a solemnity to his poem which adorns and dignifies it. "*Elegy on a much-loved Niece; with a Hymn from the Ethiopic, by Eusebius;*" these are elegant and pathetic. After a long silence, our old friend PETER PINDAR has once again enlivened us with his muse: the "*Tales of the Hoy*" have that strange mixture of sentiment and humour, which distinguishes the productions of this writer. The author of "*Lyrical Ballads*," has attempted to imitate the style of our old English versifiers, with unusual success; "*The Auncient Mariners*," however, on which he particularly prides himself, is in our opinion, a particular exception; some of his pieces are beautiful, but others are stiff and laboured. Mr. COTTLE'S "*Malvern Hills*" is a poem which does not by any means discredit the translator of the Edda. (see our last retrospect) Mr. ANSTIE has published  
a Latin



a Latin version of eighteen of the most popular of GAY's Fables; they are written with much ease and elegance in hexameters and pentameters. Mr. GILBERT's "*Hurricane*," is called a "*Theosophical and Western Eclogue*;" in the poem itself some beauties occur, and many faults; in the notes, which constitute the major part of his work, Mr. Gibert is as unintelligible as Martin Van Butchell. "*Julia; or, Last Follies*;" this is a small collection of poems, which evinces much taste, fancy, and affection. THE HERO OF THE NILE has been celebrated by several poets; Mr. "IRWIN's" muse is animated; nor are the strains of "*Harmodius*" by any means displeasing. "*A Congratulatory Ode*," has also been published on the escape of Sir SIDNEY SMITH. Among the minor productions are to be enumerated, "*Mary the Oiler Peeler*;" Miss CHANTRELL's "*Poems*;" "*The Warning*;" "*The Villain's Death-bed*;" "*Retribution*;" "*Defence of the Stage*;" Mr. GOODWIN's "*Rising Castle*;" &c. &c. &c.

## THE DRAMA.

We have somewhere seen it hinted, that our dramatic pieces grow worse, as our dramatic performers grow better: there is truth in the remark: our actors are many of them so excellent, and our machinery is so splendid, that the Poet has little occasion to rely on his own powers, provided he secures the influence of these two assistants. Few plays have made more noise among us, to use a vulgar expression, than the "*Castle Spectre*:" a play in every respect utterly contemptible: it is needless to say that Mr. LEWIS, a British senator, who acquired some celebrity from an ingenious and licentious romance, is the author of it. In consideration of the popularity which this tragedy-pantomime\* acquired, and in some

\* Most of us surely remember the prophetic lines of Dr. Johnson; he thus anticipates the prostitution of the stage, in his prologue, at the opening of Drury Lane theatre, in the year 1747:

"But who the coming changes can presage,  
And mark the future periods of the stage?  
Perhaps if skill could distant times explore,  
New Behns, new Durseys, yet remain in  
store.

Perhaps where Lear has rav'd, and Hamlet  
dy'd,

On flying cars new forcerers may ride.

Perhaps (for who can guess th' effects of  
chance?)

Here Hunt may box, or Mahomet may  
dance."

measure to oppose its pernicious influence on the public taste, the Analytical Reviewers very properly took pains to strip it of its finery, and expose the deformity of this drama: they succeeded admirably, and we refer our readers for an excellent critique on the *Castle Spectre* to Anal. Rev. Vol. XXVIII. p. 179. It is paying but little compliment to the German theatre, that we are pleased to see so many of its productions translated in English; they tend to divert our attention from the trumpery which disgraces our own stage. Three translations have appeared, one by Mr. PAPENDICK, a second, anonymously, and a third by Mr. THOMPSON, from the German of KOTZEBUE's "*Stranger*:" a drama which as it presents an interesting picture of human life, and is destitute of puns and buffoonery, was rejected by the managers both of Drury Lane, and Covent Garden, as unsuitable to the public taste; the managers of the former, however, altered their opinion, and brought forward the *Stranger*, after a long interval of time, without the translator's knowledge. It is to be hoped they will condescend to explain this dark and suspicious transaction; appearances at present are very much against them. Two translations have also appeared of KOTZEBUE's "*Natural Son; or, Lovers Vows*:" one ably and faithfully performed by Miss ANNE PLUMPTRE: to these must be added, a mutilation of the same interesting play by Mrs. INCHBALD: this last, being without any qualification the worst of the three, is performed at Covent Garden with great applause! A third tragedy has been translated from KOTZEBUE, by Mr. THOMPSON, entitled "*Adelaide of Wulfingen*." "*Count Benyowski*," translated by Mr. Render, is moreover, attributed to the pen of KOTZEBUE: very opposite opinions are entertained concerning its merit; we cannot think it by any means equal to the others which have come before us. From the German of Goëthe, "*Clawidgo*" have been translated, and "*Stella*:" "*The Sorrows of Werter*" have long since given a popularity to this writer: in the tragedies we have now announced, are some exquisite specimens of pathos. *Stella* is not without its extravagance. Two translations have appeared of Schiller's Historic play, "*Don Carlos*:" we have read them both with unabated interest. The incidents of this drama, though not confused, are certainly in some degree perplexed: but this perplexity awakens attention, and an indolent reader neither can, nor deserves



serves to relish Schiller. "*The Inquisitor*" is a tragedy translated also from the German by the late James Petit Andrews, and Mr. Pye the poet-laureat; it will naturally be expected to contain considerable merit. Another translation has appeared of this play as it was performed at the Hay-market. Mr. MURPHY, the learned translator of Tacitus, has written a tragedy which will not discredit, though it certainly does not add to the reputation of its author. "*Arminius*" was the Hero of Germany: "he had not like the kings and generals of a former day, the infancy of Rome to cope with; he had to struggle with a great and flourishing empire; he attacked the Romans in the meridian of their glory; he stood at bay for a number of years with equivocal success, sometimes victorious, often defeated, but in the issue of the war, still unconquered." This tragedy appeared at the time we were threatened with a foreign invasion, and its laudable object was to encourage unanimity. We could mention the titles of many plays and farces which have lately appeared; but it would be an uninteresting catalogue; a few therefore will suffice. Mr. MORTON fancies that his "*Secrets*" are "*worth knowing*;" we do not think so. Mr. BAYLEY's "*Forester*" is astonishingly dull; and Mr. BOADEN's historical play, "*Cambro-Britons*" is very little better. "*Reformed in Time*" has been performed at Covent-Garden with some success. It is time we should proceed to

#### NOVELS AND ROMANCES,

of which many have appeared within the last six months. Mrs. CHARLOTTE SMITH's "*Young Philosopher*" is a novel which will not impair the reputation which that lady has already earned: the story is interesting, the incidents are well managed, and the characters are drawn with spirit. We are sorry to add, that her attack upon lawyers is vulgar and illiberal: we have more than once observed that Mrs. SMITH brings her private quarrels—or we will rather say her private sufferings, before the public in her writings. She unquestionably feels consolation in thus giving vent to her feelings, and the public for a time would sympathize in her sorrows: but such reiterated mournings and complaints are tiresome and repulsive; where the language of complaint too degenerates into that of resentment, its appeal is totally and deservedly inefficacious. Mrs. SMITH has suffered by professional chicanery—be it so; is it logical to draw a general in-

ference from particular premises? is it liberal to utter abuse against a profession—a learned and scientific profession—because there are some members in it of disreputable character and profligate principles! The second volume of the "*Young Philosopher*" (there are four) is almost wholly filled with the history of Glenmonis; occasional and short digressions keep alive the attention, but a digression so unmercifully long as this is, interrupts the narrative so much as to weaken our interest in it. Notwithstanding these faults, however, the "*Young Philosopher*" is a novel, which as we before observed, will not lessen the reputation which Mrs. SMITH has deservedly acquired in this style of composition. "*Arthur Fitz Albani*" is not the production of a vulgar pen; the author's object is to plead the cause of birth against fortune, and represent loftiness of sentiment and disinterestedness of character as almost exclusively allotted to the highborn: this novel is evidently the effusion of a discontented mind and a gloomy imagination. Not so Miss PORTER's "*Octavia*" which is interesting and vivacious. "*The Mountain Cottage*" is a fanciful and ingenious tale, translated from the German of M. SPEISS, by Miss ANNE PLUMPTRE. A translation has appeared from the German of that original and very interesting novel of Augustus Lafontaine, "*Clara Dupleffis, and Clairant; the History of a Family of French Emigrants*." The translation is in three volumes; it is elegant and sufficiently correct. Mr. DUTTON has published a third volume of Nicolai's "*Life and Opinions of Sebaldus Nothanker*." "*The History of my Father*" is translated from KOTZEBUE: it is written in imitation of Sterne. The young author of "*Henry Willoughby*" displays himself to be a man of observation and of thought. The novel contains a great deal of good sense, but as there is no ghost in it, and very little about love and murder, it is not likely to gratify a very numerous class of readers. We are not by any means pleased, however, with the author's propensity to look on the world with a discontented—not to say misanthropic eye: that vice and misery are engendered in civil society, is most true; but to civil society—notwithstanding Mr. Burke's semi-serious attack on it—are we indebted for a large, a very large portion of our felicity and comforts; for all the treasures of literature and science. With a very few exceptions, the hero of this novel meets with no character but what is odious and



and detestable. Such a picture of mankind is unfair, and in our opinion it is not very creditable to the author; it is a reflection on his Creator. Mr. LLOYD's "*Edmund Oliver*" has considerable merit: it is levelled at the Godwinean philosophy; with a simplicity of story, and no uncommon coincidence of events, it is rendered interesting from the *sentiment* which pervades it: and what is of infinitely more difficulty than *plot-making*, the delineation of character. "*Derwent Priory*" will amuse a leisure hour, and the same may be said of Mr. PARSONS' "*Anecdotes of two well-known Families*." "*Ianthe*" is the production of Miss EMILY CLARK, grand-daughter of the late Colonel Frederick, son of Theodore, king of Corsica: such is the sympathy of monarchs and great men, that the descendant of the unfortunate Theodore is now impelled to exercise her talents in support of herself, her sister, and her mother! May this honourable employment meet the reward it merits! Whatever be the faults of *Ianthe* as a composition, it will interest every man of feeling, from the proofs which it displays of the amiable uncorrupted mind of its young author. But *Ianthe* is rather above than below the ordinary run of novels. "*More Ghosts*." Fair readers, be not frightened: these Ghosts are conjured up by one of your own sex, for objects of instruction and amusement, not of terror; they are intended to dissipate the horrors which some of their hideous, iron-clanking brethren have excited in the palpitating bosoms of young females at their boarding-schools; and the adventures of *these* Ghosts lead to many just reflections on the errors of education, and the irregularity of the passions. This novel is written by the wife of an officer, who labours with her pen for the support of herself and her young offspring. "*Dusseldorf*" is a romance by ANNA MARIA MACKENZIE, who is a very sorry imitator of Mrs. RADCLIFFE. "*The Step-mother*" is a tale of some merit. Miss KING's "*Waldorf*" evinces genius; it is far from being a novel of high merit; the errors are numerous, but it affords good ground for suspecting that the author has talents, has taste, and has feeling, which, if properly cultivated, may enable her to produce something of a very superior kind. Miss TOMLINS' "*Rosalind de Tracy*," Mr. BELLANCY's "*Sadinski*," "*Geraldina*," "*Statira*," &c. complete the catalogue. We ought to specify that "*The Castle of the Rock*" is not ill written, and that Mrs. HUGIL's "*Isidora of Galicia*," displays considerable

able invention. It is time that we should proceed to

## EDUCATION.

Mrs. LANDEN has published "*The Plan of Education*" which she professes to pursue in her academy in Sloane-street; it is a very extensive one; the subjects of her instruction are numerous, nor do ornamental improvement and external decoration usurp an undue proportion of her care. Moral and intellectual attainments, the graces of the mind, and the affections of the heart, are attended to with a becoming preference. If the plan which is chalked out with so liberal a hand be fairly and fully adopted—we certainly have no reason to suspect that it is not so—then Mrs. LANDEN's academy is very much superior to the ordinary boarding-schools of the metropolis and its environs. Miss JONES has published an "*Analysis of Education, and Plan of a Seminary for Young Ladies; with the form of morning and evening prayers used at Sutton-house*." These sort of publications are extremely useful to parents, who, before they submit a child to the care and education of a governess, are thus enabled to obtain information relative to the sort of care, and the sort of education she is likely to receive. Miss JONES shews herself to be a woman of good understanding, and it seems to us, that her mode of education in general, and the means, in particular, which she adopts for the government of children, are very proper. The course of instruction which Mr. EVANS sketches in his "*Essay on the Education of Youth*" is liberal and judicious; the same encomium may be passed on Mr. CATLOW's "*Outlines of a Plan of Instruction adapted to the varied purposes of active Life*." Mrs. Godwin's "*Lessons for Children*" are part of a series which that unfortunate woman intended to have written for the instruction of her daughter: it were superfluous to enlarge on their excellence. The Abbé Gaultier has long since obtained celebrity for his attempts to facilitate the process of education; his "*Lectures graduées pour les Enfants*," (progressive Lessons for Children) will augment his fame: we cannot help thinking, however, that his scheme of instruction is somewhat too artificial—by which we mean to be understood that it has too much artifice and contrivance in it:—we like his fundamental principle, however, of endeavouring to render instruction a pleasure, and not a task to children. Under the head of education we may rank the Rev. Mr. GILPIN's "*Moral Contrasts*:" Mr. GILPIN has long been known, and long been



been respected in the literary world: in the present little work, the power of religion is exemplified under different characters; Mr. Willoughby and Sir James Leigh are both represented as young men of rank and fortune: their education is opposite, and the consequence of each system is happily illustrated; impiety, profusion, immorality, and ruin attend Sir James, while integrity, benevolence, and virtue adorn the life of Willoughby, and accompany him with satisfaction and enjoyment to the end of his days. To these fictitious characters are added two others taken from real life, in which the power of religion is still farther exemplified; one of them is that of the Earl of Rochester, and the other is that of Niambanna, an African prince who was brought over to England by the Sierra Leone company. The "*Youth's Miscellany*" is compiled by the author of the "*Juvenile Olio*:" it consists of tales, fables, reflections, &c. which are intended by the author, and in general they are well calculated to answer the purpose of his intention, "to promote a love of virtue and learning, to correct the judgment, to improve the taste, and to humanize the mind." Dr. MORSE'S "*Elements of Geography*" were principally written for the improvement of his countrymen; the Doctor is particularly diffuse, therefore, in his description of America. This work will be considered as a very useful school-book. Mrs. CHARLOTTE SMITH has again devoted her talents to the instruction of children: she has lately published two volumes of "*Minor Morals*:" the work consists of dialogues, and occasional narratives; it is interspersed with sketches of natural history, historical anecdotes, and original stories; morality is impressively recommended, and the prose is occasionally varied with poetical pieces. It will not be impertinent to announce an abridgement "*À l'Usage de la Jeunesse*," of the Abbé Barthelemy's "*Voyage du Jeune Anacharsis en Grèce*," &c. to this abridgement is annexed "*La Vie de l'Auteur par M. le Duc de Nivernois*." The work is well printed, correct, and cheap. Mr. HEMET has abridged and translated from the German of G. C. Sturm, "*Reflections for every Day in the Year, on the works of God and his providence throughout Nature*." This abridgement is excellently adapted for the use of schools. Miss STOCKDALE'S "*Family Book, or Children's Journal*," is a translation from the French of M. BERQUIN; some poetical pieces are interspersed, written by the translator. "*Delectus Græcarum sententiarum*," &c.

to these select Greek sentences are added grammatical and philological notes for the use of schools: this is a very useful work. Mr. SALMON, whose accuracy and ingenuity have often been displayed in philological and grammatical investigation, has published "*The first Principles of English Grammar, methodically exhibited and explained upon a Plan entirely new, intending to render the Knowledge of them useful in the study of other Languages*." Mr. Carpenter's "*Scholar's Spelling Assistant*," may be adopted with profit by masters. We are happy to announce, that the admirable "*French Grammar*" of the Abbé de Levisac, has been abridged by himself. Mr. Chardon's "*Exercises upon the French Grammar*," may be safely recommended. Mrs. Pilkington's "*Scripture Histories*," is a work of merit; we cannot, however, but think that her attempt to familiarize the language of the scripture history, shews a want of taste; what can exceed the dignified simplicity of the original? Mrs. Pilkington's pen is often employed in the instruction of young persons; her "*Mirror for the Female Sex*," is intended to lead the female mind to the love and practice of moral goodness. The idea of the present little work was suggested by Dodd's *Beauties of History*, and its object is to introduce young ladies to an "early acquaintance with such extraordinary characters in their own sex as have either adorned or disgraced the page of biography." "*Tales of the Cottage*," are written on the plan of Madame de Genlis's work, "*Les Veillées du Château*;" they are interesting and appropriate. The "*Tales of the Hermitage*," are adapted to instruct and amuse the rising generation. Mr. CHARLES ALLEN'S "*New and improved History of England*," &c. and his "*New and improved Roman History*," are both of them to be considered as judicious and useful school books. Mrs. HOLME'S "*Instructive Rambles*," unite instruction with entertainment; it is a work of great simplicity and morality. With Mrs. WAKEFIELD'S "*Reflections on the present Condition of the Female Sex*," are interwoven suggestions for its improvement. KEEPER'S "*Travels in search of his Master*," are amusing and instructive.

Considering the importance of a good education in early years, we have endeavoured to notice all the publications of any merit which treat on the subject; it is highly grateful to us, that in our search we have discovered so many, and some of them of so great excellence.

We



We are now come to the last division,  
MISCELLANIES,

Which will be found to embrace a number of works of great merit and importance. We know not where to arrange with more propriety than under this head, "*The Works of Horatio Walpole, Earl of Orford*;" this splendid publication consists of five ponderous quarto volumes, the contents of which are in general, what the author himself had selected; in a measure also they are new; for though all the tracts of Horace Walpole, which had before been published, are embodied in this work, they are enriched with so many valuable observations, which suggested themselves to the noble author in his maturer years, that to their intrinsic excellence is added the charm of novelty: the fourth and fifth volumes, with inconsiderable exceptions, are composed of matter which had never been before the public. Mr. Walpole devoted almost the whole of his long life to literary pursuits; he cultivated with equal success his taste, his talents, and his temper; his acquirements were various, but not superficial; his excursive genius, after exploring the dark and intricate labyrinths of antiquity, rested not, but as a relief from labour, would ramble through the delightful regions of fancy, and cull some of the choicest flowers that blow. The public is under great obligations to Mr. Berry and his fair associate for the care, the accuracy, and elegance with which they have edited these interesting volumes. Mr. Browne, of Trinity college, Dublin, has published two volumes of "*Miscellaneous Sketches; or, Hints for Essays*;" they display much good sense and acute observation, and are obviously the effusions of a mind well stored with the treasures of literature. Mr. Browne is one of these gloomy philosophers who consider civilization to move, as it were, in the periphery of a circle; even in its progress, always returning to the point of barbarism from which it started; "my own opinion always has been," says he, "that the present state of illumination and refinement will be succeeded by second darkness and cimmerian night, equally gloomy with the cloud raised by the crush of the Roman empire;" far from considering the art of printing as an adequate guarantee against this melancholy retrogression of the mind, he says the art of printing may itself become exclusively the engine of wickedness, of vice, of folly, and of irreligion. Mr. Brown adduces the example of France in support of his arguments. We are not

of that number who consider the cause of France as inseparably connected with the cause of freedom, and who therefore think it necessary to defend the former in all her infamous enormities. Far from it—very far from it indeed. We cannot, however, think it fair to attribute the enormities of France to the art of printing. That in the phrenzy of revolution, the art of printing was unable to counteract them is most true, and that when the press, under the reign of Robespierre, *was an engine which at his peril no one but the tyrant dare employ*, it for the moment contributed to the enormities is true; but that the art of printing, *where the freedom of the press is unrestricted*, should permanently and steadily operate to rebarbarize mankind, is a position, in our opinion, totally repugnant to common sense and common reason. The muses are bitter bad judges of philosophy, says Mr. Horne Tooke; but the soundness of the poet's judgment, who said, "*Ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes*," &c. has never been disputed; and Mr. Browne, if he had attended to the proceedings of the national institute, and other literary and scientific societies in France, would have paused before he spoke in so peremptory a tone; he would have been compelled to anticipate the time, no distant time we hope, when those ferocious frowns which have disgraced the infant republic shall soften into smiles, into smiles of benevolence and peace. It is grateful to have men of literary eminence coincide with us in opinion, and that such a coincidence should be accidentally made known is doubly so. How highly gratified then must Mr. Browne be, could he but know that Dr. Trusler, *the Rev. Dr. Trusler*, has given his formidable interdict to the art of printing, in "*An Essay on literary Property, containing a Commentary on the Statute of Queen Anne (8 Q. An. c. 19. and Animadversions on that Statute, with a dedicatory Preface*," in bad English, "*to the Lord Chancellor*." Doctor Trusler asserts that the art of printing, if not the first, is at any rate the secondary cause of all the troubles which France has experienced. The Doctor, however, goes a little farther; he says, that *the art of reading* also has had something to do with it. As we are not quarrelsome people, we shall give up the point. We dare not indulge ourselves in quotation; but it would really have been a great treat to us to have given a specimen of this reverend author's essay. The Doctor acknowledges, "that printing has certainly had its good uses;" this is very true, for we remember



remember to have seen it stated somewhere, that Dr. Trusler's Chronology has gone through fourteen large editions; his Almanacks, Abridgements, Dictionary of reputed Synonyms, &c. have no doubt convinced him feelingly, that the art of printing has had its uses. But we have dwelt too long on this vile nonsense; it may not be amiss, however, to state that the Doctor wrote this *essay* against the free circulation of books, in order to be revenged on his foes the booksellers, against whom he is highly indignant. He forgets that his principles would recoil on himself.

Perhaps, we might with more propriety have introduced under "Irish Politics," than under the present head, "*A Narrative of the Sufferings and Escape of Charles Jackson, late resident at Wexford, in Ireland, including an Account by way of Journal, of several barbarous atrocities committed in June 1798, by the Irish Rebels in that Town, while it was in their Possession, to the greater part of which he was an eye-witness.*" The number of insurgents who attacked the town of Wexford, is computed to be 15,000; their outrages were indeed most barbarous. Dr. Vincent has published, "*An Enquiry into the form and constitution of the Legion of the Consul Manlius\**," in illustration of the 8th, 9th, and 10th, chapters of the eighth book of Livy. He supposes, not merely that the *Rorarii* were heavy armed soldiers, but that the *Accensi* were so too; with regard to the legion itself, he enters into a copious discussion of particulars, and introduces a plan of it. Mr. Gilpin's "*Observations on the Western Parts of England, relative chiefly to picturesque Beauty,*" have lain in his port-folio these twenty years, and we are now indebted for their publication, to the humane and charitable disposition which has ever distinguished this elegant author. We have good reasons for believing that the benefits of this ingenious and entertaining work are intended to lay the foundation of a fund for the support of a school for the instruction of poor children. Mr. Gilpin's ideas on the picturesque, it is obvious, even from the title-page, differ from those of Mr. Price, the second volume of whose essays on that subject are noticed in our last retrospect. Mr. JOHN IRELAND† has published the third and last volume of his "*Hogarth illustrated;*" it is to be considered as a sup-

plement to the two former. Mr. IRELAND having obtained from the executrix of Hogarth's widow a number of his MSS. and conceiving that they would be a highly interesting present to the public, has arranged and printed them. He thinks they may admit of the following division: 1. "*Hogarth's Life*, comprehending his course of study, correspondence, political quarrels, &c. 2. A MS. vol. in folio, containing the autographs of the subscribers to his *Election*, and intended print of *Sigismunda*; and letters to and from Lord Grosvenor, relative to that picture. 3. The MS. of the *Analysis of Beauty*, with the original sketches, and many remarks omitted in the printed copy. 4. A supplement to the *Analysis*, never published; comprising a succinct history of the arts in his own time, his account of the institution of the Royal Academy, &c. 5. *Sundry memoranda*, relative to the subject of his satire on several of his prints." Dr. Yeates, in his "*Observations on the claims of the Moderns to some Discoveries in Chemistry and Physiology,*" brings forward the works of Dr. Mayow, a physician of the last century, as not having met with that justice which is due to their merit: to estimate and manifest the full value of Dr. Mayow's experiments and discoveries, seems indeed to have been a principal object of this ingenious publication. "*An Appeal to the Men of Great Britain in Behalf of Women,*" is the production of a female pen; it has not the fire, the animation, and the originality of Mrs. WOLLSTONECRAFT's work on the same subject, but the author will not have the fewer admirers on that account. We have read the work with pleasure, because the subject ought not to sink into oblivion: the author appears to be an amiable, diffident, and sensible woman. Mr. BEATSON's "*Essay on the Comparative Advantage of Vertical and Horizontal Windmills,*" &c. is very ingenious: the principles on which Mr. BEATSON constructs the horizontal mill, is simple, and the method of getting the sails back seems ingenious and practicable. Mr. BLACK, one of the surviving officers of the ship, has published "*An Authentic Narrative,*" and a very melancholy one, of the mutiny on board the *Lady Jane Shore*, with particulars of a journey through part of Brazil: it is written in a letter dated, "Rio Janeiro. Jan. 18th 1798." The third volume is published, of *The Lounger's Common Place Book*; this is a compilation of anecdotes, biographical, political, literary, and

\* "*De Legione Manliana quæstio ex Livio desumpta, et rei Militaris Romanæ studiosis præfata.*"

† Not the Shakspearean Samuelle.



and satirical: it is a very entertaining miscellany, and seems to be the production of a man of reading and observation: it continues to be conducted with the same spirit, humour, and originality, which first made it popular. "*Dr. Johnson's Table Talk*:" this is a selection of anecdotes, &c. from Mr. Boswell's circumstantial biography. As the descent of BUONAPARTE in Egypt has long since been known, it is sufficient now to state, that previous to his arrival there, Mr. IRWIN, questioning the destination of the general's army to that quarter, from the difficulty which would oppose its progress, published "*An Enquiry into the Feasibility of the Supposed Expedition of Buonaparte to the East*;" this little pamphlet displays much local knowledge; as does another by the Editor of the history of Peter III. and Catherine the II. of Russia, entitled "*Observations on the Expedition of General Buonaparte*," &c. A second volume is published of "*Biographical Anecdotes, of the Founders of the French Republic*:" it yields not to the first in any respect. The Editor of the *Varieties of Literature*, has been induced from the success of that work to publish another, exactly on the same plan, but unnecessarily, we think, under a different title, "*Selections from Foreign Literary Journals*." The "*Annual Registers*" proceed as usual. Mr. CARY'S "*New Itinerary*," we have on more than one occasion found accurate and useful. Dr. NATHAN DRAKE'S "*Literary Hours*," is a miscellaneous work of much merit; it is written somewhat after the manner of a periodical publication, and consists of essays, critical, philosophical, and historical, poetry, and tales. We remember to have seen some of these essays in the *Speculator*, an ingenious work, the first and only volume of which appeared some years ago. It appears that Dr. DRAKE'S signature in the *Speculator* was N. The essays, which are reprinted in the present work, are all of them very much altered for the better.

We have now conducted our reader through all the various apartments of the great National Library, and pointed out to them the valuable acquisitions which it has received within the last six months; we are obliged to the company for their attendance, and take our leave of them, with an invitation to repeat their visit at the end of another half-year, and to bring with them as many of their acquaintance as they choose. *Valete Amici,*

#### STATE OF LITERATURE AND THE SCIENCES IN PORTUGAL.

WITHIN the last twenty years the Portuguese have made some successful efforts to shake off the gross ignorance and shameful sloth with which they so often have been reproached. The present queen, if she have not founded, has at least suffered a *Royal Academy of Sciences* to be founded under her auspices. Its object is far less futile than those ridiculous bodies which had before usurped the title of academy; and it has already published several volumes of its transactions; all of them containing papers which prove at once the abilities and the patriotic zeal of their authors.

The first volume of these Transactions appeared in 1789. Several matters of public utility are there treated of; such as a comparison of the salt of Setubal with that of Cadiz; the means of improving the culture of cotton, the most valuable production furnished by the Brasils to Portugal, and through Portugal to the rest of Europe; the agriculture and population of several provinces of the kingdom; the means of naturalising in the mother country several productions of the colonies; the mischief resulting to the Portuguese from luxury, &c. This volume is rendered particularly interesting by a short but luminous dissertation on that great question which still divides the opinion of men versed in political economy: *The true influence of mines of the precious metals, upon the industry of the nations that possess them, particularly of the Portuguese.* The author, *Don Rodrigo de Souza-Coutinho*, nephew of the last ambassador from the court of Lisbon to France, attempts to prove by arguments, specious at least, that it is not to the possession of gold and silver mines, but to much more active causes, that the decline of industry, both in Spain and Portugal, must be ascribed. In Spain, according to him, that decline is accounted for by the expulsion of the Moors; by that of the Jews; by the distant and expensive wars of Philip II. and by the detestable administration of his three successors. He affirms, that in Portugal the influence of the mines is not chargeable with the ruin of commerce and industry; that both of them had been very flourishing from the time of Emmanuel; but that the mad and unfortunate expedition of the youthful king Sebastian, the intestine commotions that followed it, the destructive sway exercised by the kings of Spain for sixty years (from



(from 1580 to 1640), and the ruinous wars which followed the accession of the house of Braganza to the throne, suffice alone to explain the degeneracy of Portugal till the reign of Peter II. in whose time the mines of Brazil were discovered. "That discovery," he says, "would have been a source of prosperity to the kingdom, rather than of poverty and depopulation, but for the fatal treaty of 1703\*, which, by destroying all its manufactures, and throwing its commerce into the hands of a powerful ally, produced a balance of trade so disadvantageous to the Portuguese, that the whole produce of their mines scarcely suffices to pay it." The same author asserts, "that the mines delayed for some time the fatal effects of that treaty; but that they afterwards became responsible for all the evil, when the ruin of the national industry began to be perceived; and that under the reign of John V. they produced that apparent opulence, which, not having its foundation in industry, and being constantly diminished by the effects of an unfavourable balance, in the end entirely disappeared.

"In our time," concludes the author of this paper, "we have seen the dawn of a fairer day, and posterity will, no doubt, celebrate the reign of a sovereign†, who resuscitated a flourishing city from its ashes. He restored public credit, and destroyed the prejudices that subjected us to a nation very clear-sighted in regard to its own interest, which under the seductive veil of protection, reduced us to a state little better than that of a colony."

A young Portuguese nobleman, surrounded by the inveterate enemies of the marquis of Pombal, could not be expected to pronounce a more direct panegyric on his administration. But the adoption of his ideas by the literary society, of which he is a member, proves at once the disposition of that society towards England, and the policy of the present government. If Don Rodrigo had been less restrained by courtly considerations, and by the fear of drawing upon himself the animosity of fanaticism, he certainly would not have failed to number among the causes of the decline of Portugal, and among the obstacles to its regeneration, the establishment of the Inquisition, which took place in the reign of John III. that is to say, at the very epoch, since which his country has been in a regular state of decay.

\* The treaty between England and Portugal, commonly called *Metbuen's* treaty.

† Joseph I.

The second volume of the *Transactions of the Academy of Lisbon*, contains papers on a variety of subjects, interesting to Portugal. Among them, are long details concerning the culture of the vine, and the means of bringing it to perfection. In this treatise, the violent measures employed in 1766, by the marquis of Pombal, to prevent the increase of vineyards at the expence of tillage, are in some respects justified. The abuse which that minister wished to destroy, has in a great degree survived his administration. It is still prevalent in the three northern provinces, especially in those of Tra-los-Montes and Beira, where grounds highly suitable to corn and vegetables are planted with vines. In the fertile and beautiful province of Entre-Minho-y-Douro, that culture ought more particularly to give place to other kinds, the wine it produces being much weaker than the produce of the other provinces. A proof of this is afforded by a vineyard near Alafoens, between the Vonga and the Mondego, the wine of which is so defective in spirits, that from ten measures only one of brandy is obtained.

The second volume also contains some curious papers concerning the cochineal of Brazil, the overflowing of the Tagus, the ravages it makes, and the means of preventing them; as also concerning sea-coal; the trees that it would be advantageous to propagate; iron manufactories; the whale-fishery; the cultivation of waste-land, &c.

The succeeding volumes contain several treatises equally useful, and which may be found interesting, even out of Portugal; such are those relative to agricultural matters, particularly the vine and olive-tree. One of these papers, the author of which, Vincenzo Coatha de Scabra, appears to be an observer well versed in botanical studies, recommends the culture of the *palma christi*, the fruit of which contains a seed that yields oil in abundance. This tree, which grows in great plenty about the Brazils, furnishes all the miners with sufficient oil for their consumption. If planted in Portugal, where its cultivation has been attempted with success in several places, it would supply the want of oil of olives in many cases; but the author acknowledges that the oil of the *palma christi*, commonly called castor oil, cannot be used as an aliment, on account of its nauseous taste, and purgative quality.

Another treatise, written by Manuel Dias Baptista, and entitled "*Physical and Economical*"



*Economical Description of Coimbra and its Environs*," proves that the science of botany is better known in Portugal than is generally supposed. Since 1789, the academy of Lisbon has printed several works relative to that science, among which are "*Viridarium Lusitanicum Linnaeanis nominibus illustratum*," by Domingo Vandelli; and "*Flora Cochinchinensis*," by Joan. de Loureiro. There are, moreover, at Lisbon, several botanical gardens, which are worthy of the attention of travellers, as are the different museums of natural history in that capital, Coimbra, Evora, Mafra, &c.

One of the most interesting papers to be found among the transactions of the academy at Lisbon, relates to the fisheries, particularly that of the whale, which the Portuguese might carry on to great advantage on the coasts of Brazil, and for the produce of which they now pay to England 700,000,000 rez annually (about 180,000l.)

The academy of Lisbon proves also that the Portuguese are not strangers to chemistry and astronomy. It has lately printed an "*Essay on the new Theory of Fire*," by Magelhaens; and an excellent "*Dissertation on Heat*," by Coalho de Scabra. We also find among its transactions of the year 1791, "*A Treatise on the Utility of Chemical Knowledge, as applied to the Construction of Edifices*," by Alex. Anton. das Neves.

For some years past, the academy has published an annual volume of "*Nautical Ephemerides; or an Astronomical Journal*," calculated for the meridian of Lisbon; and it was also under its auspices, that the "*Perpetual Astronomical Tables for the Use of the Portuguese Navigation*," were printed in 1790.

The academicians of Lisbon have also published some curious researches concerning the population of their country. One of them, Jos. Joaq. Soares de Barros, printed at Paris, a few years back, a small tract, in which he endeavoured to prove that Portugal contained at least three millions of inhabitants. In a new work, included in the "*Transactions of the Academy*," he goes still farther; and maintains, that the population of that kingdom ought to be rated at upwards of three millions and a half. He supports his assertion by the results of several enquiries, particularly by the account that was taken in 1776, of all the cities, towns, and villages, and of the number of houses contained in each. As it appears that the total number of houses was 744,980, and as each house is

generally supposed to contain five persons upon an average, he concludes that the population of Portugal must amount to about 3,724,900 souls. He proves afterwards, by an exact account taken in some particular places, that the estimate of five persons to a house, very little exceeds the truth, and that it is therefore incontestible that Portugal, according to what he has asserted, contains at least three millions and a half of inhabitants.

Independently of its own "*Transactions*," the academy has also undertaken the printing of a great many books, consisting either of original works, or of translations from the French, English, and Spanish. The list we are about to give of the principal publications which appeared in this manner, between the years 1787 and 1794, will serve, in some measure, to acquit the Portuguese of the charge brought against them of neglecting all the sciences. For it will be readily believed, that it was not for its members alone that the academy published these different works; and that it would not have incurred the expence if it had not reckoned upon a certain number of purchasers. It is to its care, that the publication of the following books is due:

"*Historia juris civilis Lusitani*;" "*Institutiones juris civilis Lusitani*," both by Pascal-Joseph Mello Freire.

"*The Life of the Infant Don Edward*," by Andreas de Rezende.

"*Memoirs of Agriculture*," which gained the academical prize in 1787 and 1788.

*Vesties of the Arabian Tongue in Portugal*, or, *Etymological Dictionary of the Portuguese word, which have an Arabic origin*. By Francis Joad. de Sousa.

*Arabian Documents of the Portuguese History, in Arabic and Portuguese*.

*A Collection of Works never before printed, Containing: The History of the Reigns of John I. Edward, Alphonso V. and John II. Kings of Portugal*.

*A Treatise on the Means of Improving the Manufacture of Oil in Portugal; A treatise on the Cultivation of the Olive-tree in Portugal*; both by Joad Emtton Della-Bella.

*A Treatise on Physical Education, addressed to the Portuguese Nation*. By Francis de Mello-Franco.

Another Treatise bearing the same Title. By Francis Joseph de Almeida.

*Observations on the Principal Causes of the Decline of the Portuguese Power in Asia*. By Anthony Caetano de Amoral.

*Memoirs illustrative of the History of Transmarine Nations*.

A Dictionary



*A Dictionary of the Portuguese Language, &c. &c.*

We pass over in silence several others relating merely to Portuguese Literature, which is not perhaps deserving of great celebrity, but to which the academy of Lisbon calls the attention of its countrymen, either with a view of pointing out to them the models (few in number) after which they ought to form themselves, or the errors which they should be studious to avoid.

Besides this, the academy offers prizes as an encouragement to study, and to the progress of useful knowledge. An idea may be formed of its view by the following list of the principal subjects which it has proposed, since the year 1783.

The physical and economical description of some district, or considerable division of Portugal, or some of its foreign possessions, accompanied by observations useful to the agriculture and industry of the nation.

What is the best manner of cultivating, improving, and preserving vines, and what is the most efficacious means of increasing the reputation, and the produce of that important branch of the trade of Portugal?

The academy desires that those who may discuss this matter, will indicate the different kinds of vines, with their respective names, characterized by the quality of their fruit, according to the manner of the Abbé Rozier, Duhamel, and other agricultural naturalists; the different methods of making wine, both in and out of the country; the means of preserving, fining, and preparing it for conveyance, as also of distinguishing when it is adulterated, &c.

To examine the instruments of agriculture used in Portugal, and to compare them with those of other countries, shewing at the same time how the latter may be adapted to the situation of the Portuguese, and to the nature of their soil.

To give the best drawing of a vessel, calculated to sail with the greatest possible degree of velocity, accompanying the drawing with plans, sections, and views of its principal parts.

To determine by the most speedy, and certain method, the course and distance sailed by a ship in a given time.

What are the physical defects in our method of salting fish, which render it less nourishing, and more difficult to preserve, and by what means this important branch of our subsistence, and of our commerce, may be improved.

To determine the artificial means cal-

culated to produce the greatest quantity of nitre.

To indicate the manner of finding the equations of planets by observation, and of employing it, particularly in determining the phases of the moon.

To give the best Portuguese translation of the *Georgics of Virgil*, either in verse, or prose, adding thereto, what as yet has been done by no translator, notes and explanations concerning the Portuguese in particular, and presenting nothing but things applicable to their country, or which have already been attempted with success.

To give a medico-topographical description of Lisbon, indicating the properties of its climate and situation; analysing its atmosphere, the variations of the same, the food of its inhabitants, and their general manner of living; and collecting authentic facts, which may lead to a knowledge of the diseases of that city, either endemic, or epidemical.

To compose the best essay on nervous and hysterical affections. To indicate the influence that may be exercised over that disease, by the usual education, manners, food, and dress of children, and the changes which ought to be made, in order to render them more robust and healthy; the whole proved by experiments.

To enquire into the causes of the disease, common at Rio Janeiro, and which begins to manifest itself at the Bay of *Todos y Santos*; being a farinaceous tetter which does not seem to be endemic. To indicate the means of cure and prevention, &c.

To give an account of the present state of Portuguese Literature, pointing out what are the characteristics of good taste, either in speaking or writing, &c.

To devise a mode of speech applicable to the nature of the Portuguese language, elucidating each precept, by examples drawn from ancient and modern writers.

To compose a philosophical dictionary of the Portuguese language.

To guide those who may undertake this task, the academy advises them to study the work of Locke upon the Human Understanding; the Works of Condillac; the Physical Explanation of the Senses by Hartley; the *Grammaire Universelle* of Beauzée; the Works of Dumarçais; the *Lettres de Diderot sur les Sourds et Muets*; the articles in the *Encyclopedia* concerning grammar, and all the other works that have any relation to the philosophy of language.

To



To give a circumstantial account of the typographical history, from its introduction into Portugal to the present time.

To present a view of the Portuguese military establishment at different periods, mentioning the number of which it was composed, the different kinds of troops, the arms of which each kind made use, the manner in which each was organized and commanded, and in which it performed its military service, from the beginning of the monarchy till the invasion of Philip II.

To determine the era at which the code of Justinian was introduced into Portugal, and the degree of authority it obtained in that kingdom.

To write a panegyric on some of the eminent persons who have added lustre to the Portuguese name, and whose actions merit celebration.

Besides this, the academy proposes an annual prize to the author of a Portuguese tragedy, as also to the author of a comedy, either in verse or prose, representing Portuguese characters; and lastly, it offers silver medals to each of the authors of the four best poetical compositions, being neither epic nor dramatic.

This abstract will serve to convince foreigners that the academy of Lisbon, which is far less known than it deserves to be, does not neglect any means of enlightening its countrymen, and of awakening them from their torpid state. Physics, political œconomy, agriculture in particular, navigation, astronomy, medicine, national literature, history, the art of war, typography, jurisprudence, all the speculative and practical sciences, are the objects of its solicitude and encouragement. The chairs of its academicians are by no means soporific, as those of certain other literary bodies have been. Its members join example to precept. Their country is indebted to them for several valuable papers on a variety of subjects. *Alex. Anton das Neres Portugal, Domingos Vandelli, Estevaon Cabral, Joan. de Lourciro, Jos. Joaq. de Barros, Anton. Ribeiro dos Santos*, and, above all, the perpetual secretary of the academy, *Correa*, distinguish themselves among the most laborious, and most enlightened. The duke of Alafoens, who travelled a long time in Europe, and with great profit, may be considered as the real founder of this literary body; and his intimate connection with the court assure to the academy of Lisbon the particular protection of the sovereign. It must, however, be confessed, that these paid establishments, the publi-

cation of these papers, and the awarding of these prizes, will go but a little way toward the deliverance of the Portuguese nation from its prejudices and its ignorance. More active means are required for its regeneration. The light as yet only shines upon privileged heads, which nature has favoured, or education has taken care to cultivate, as the rising sun only gilds the tops of the highest mountains. The rest of the nation is still enveloped in darkness, like the deep vallies, that wait a long while for the rays of the lamp of day.

Portugal has, however, since 1778, produced several agreeable and useful works, to the printing of which the academy has not directly contributed.

In 1785, a second edition appeared of the "*Description of Portugal*," containing an account of its productions, plants, minerals, fruits, &c. To this was added a brief notice of the heroes of Portugal, and of other estimable personages, among whom, as may be naturally supposed, the Portuguese saints are not forgotten.

About 1782, Captain Manuel de Souza published a "*French and Portuguese Dictionary*;" and Antonio Viera, an "*English and Portuguese Dictionary*;" Jos. de Cardoso the "*Elements of the Art of War*;" and M. La Croix, the "*Elements of the Rights of Nature and of Nations*." Manoe de Faria y Sousa had published in 1779, an "*Abridgment of the History of Portugal*;" and ten years after there appeared a Portuguese translation of an English work in three volumes, bearing the same title.

Among the good modern works that have appeared in Portugal ought also to be included that of *Vellozo*, who has given a very good description of the plants of Brasil; and the essay concerning the commerce of Portugal and its colonies, by J. Joaq. de Cunha, bishop of Fernambouc.

Among the recent translations of foreign works, both ancient and modern, are, *Longinus on the Sublime*; the *Manner of Writing History*, by Lucian; the *Four first Comedies* of Terence; the *Paradise Lost* of Milton; the *Pastorals* of Gesner; and several of the best French tragedies, &c. &c.

We might extend this list a great way further without proving, that the literature of the Portuguese deserves to hold a distinguished place in the European republic of letters. When we have named first Camoens, and then in the second line Joao de Barros, author of the *Decades of Asia*,



*Asia*, who treats of the glorious achievements of the Portuguese in the discovery and conquest of their eastern possessions; Osorio, who has written a history of the reign of king Emmanuel, and Father Vieira, known by his sermons still more whimsical than eloquent, we have nothing left to mention but a few writers esteemed by the Portuguese alone, and a multitude of modern productions, mostly relative to religion, or rather to the most ridiculous superstition; productions which are disclaimed alike by reason and by taste, and which, being much more numerous, and much more in request among the common herd of readers than rational and useful books, spread the gloom of ignorance faster than it is dispelled by the united efforts of the Lisbon academicians. In such a scarcity of claims to literary reputation, the Portuguese do well to attach great importance to their celebrated Camoens, and accordingly they publish as many editions of the *Lusiad* as possible. They have long lamented the loss of the original manuscript of that poem; and have lately conceived hopes of obtaining what will be nearly an equivalent. It appears that a sister of M. Turgot was in possession of a copy of the *Lusiad*, which had been authentically collated with the original. The Chevalier d'Aranjo, as much attached to the glory of his country, as he is calculated to contribute to it by his knowledge and talents, was engaged in a search after this manuscript, and intended to avail himself of it in giving a new edition of Camoens with notes, when a variety of incidents obstructed his literary enterprise. It is not, however, abandoned, and ere long more auspicious circumstances will favour its success.

#### RETROSPECT OF FRENCH LITERATURE IN 1798.

##### HISTORY.

“*TABLEAUX de la Revolution Française*,” &c. Pictures of the French Revolution, or a collection of prints, representing the principal events, which have happened in France, from the transformation of the States-General into a National Assembly, the 20th June, 1789, large folio. This interesting work has reached the 53d number. Each print is accompanied by a description in letter-press, well drawn up. A number appears every month, containing two plates, and about eight printed pages. The 53d number represents the attack on the town-hall

of Paris, 27th July, 1794, and the shutting up of the hall of the Jacobins, on the following day.

“*Histoire de l'assassinat*,” &c. History of the assassination of Gustavus III. king of Sweden, by a Polish officer, an ocular witness, 8vo.

“*Histoire de France*,” &c. The History of France from the election of Pharamond to the reign of Louis XVI. represented in prints engraved by David, with an historical abstract, volume 5. 4to. This volume completes the work; and contains the reigns of Henry III. and IV. Louis XIII. XIV. and XV. It is an elegant publication, on vellum paper.

“*Histoire de Russie*,” &c. History of Russia, in prints, by David, 2 vols. 4to. This work extends from the year 862 to the present time.

“*Histoire des premiers Peuples*,” &c. History of the ancient free nations, who have inhabited France, by Laveaux, 3 vols. 8vo.

“*Abregé chronologique*,” &c. A chronological abridgment of the French Revolution, containing the causes and principal details of that great event, by Richer, and continued by Brument, 3 vols. 18mo. This abstract extends to the signing of the preliminaries of peace with the Emperor.

Several pamphlets have appeared at Paris, containing accounts of the various descents, which have taken place on the British Islands.

“*Histoire du Siege de Lyons*,” &c. History of the Siege of Lyons, of the events which preceded, and the disasters that followed, and of their causes, secret, general, and particular, from 1789 to 1796, accompanied with a plan, 2 vols. 8vo.

“*Histoire des Prisons*,” &c. History of the prisons of Paris, and the departments; containing valuable memoirs for the history of the French Revolution, by Nougant, 4 vols. 12mo. with prints.

“*Campagnes des François*,” &c. The campaigns of the French during the Revolution, vol. 1, containing those of the summer and winter 1792, by A. Liger, 8vo. This production of a French officer is well authenticated, and digested. The whole work is proposed to extend to seven volumes, comprising the campaigns of La Vendée in a separate volume.

“*Memoires historiques*,” &c. Historical and geographical memoirs, concerning the countries situated between the Black Sea and the Caspian; with new details concerning the inhabitants, and observations on the ancient and modern topography,



phy, a vocabulary of the dialect of Caucasus, &c. 4to. with maps. This interesting publication has been somewhat forestalled in this country by Mr. Ellis's elegant memoir on the same subject. It is divided into three parts: 1. An exact description of the countries mentioned in the title, translated we believe from Mr. Ellis's work. 2. A memoir on the course of the rivers Araxes and Cyrus, illustrated by a map. 3. An extract of the journal of a traveller in the south of Russia, in spring 1784.

## POLITICS.

"*Deux lettres d'un Français*," &c. Two letters from a Frenchman to Mr. Pitt, or an Examination of the system followed by the British government towards France, during the last years of the monarchy, and since the establishment of the republic, 8vo. The first of these letters accuses the English minister of opposing an alliance between England and France, a connexion much wished for by philanthropists of both countries. The second relates to the treaty of Pilnitz.

"*Œuvres posthumes de Mably*," &c. Posthumous works of Mably, 3 vols. 8vo. The fame of Mably may only be considered as a proof of the low condition of political science in France, before the revolution; an unhappy circumstance, proceeding from the severity of the old government, and which led to many of the mistakes and horrors that followed. A more idle declaimer, or a more shallow politician than Mably, never attracted public notice.

"*Esprit de Mirabeau*," &c. The essence of Mirabeau's works, 2 large volumes, 8vo. The works of this great orator fill about fifty volumes, so that an extract of the most brilliant and interesting passages must form an acceptable present to the public.

"*La Philosophie*," &c. The philosophy of politics, or general principles relative to social institutions, 2 vols. large 8vo. "Equality," says this author, "is destructive of liberty, because it can only have a short existence, and it is better that it should be infringed by the laws than by force; and because that a legal inequality protects liberty, when an inequality obtained by violence overturns liberty.—We ought to shew equal indulgence to those who believe religious systems, and to those who do not believe."

"*La Politique d'Aristotele*," &c. The Politics of Aristotle, or the Knowledge of Governments, translated by C. Champagne 2 vols. 8vo. This is a good translation, and the author has prefixed an able analysis of the work.

"*Recherches*," &c. Historical researches concerning Ostracism, 8vo. This singular institution was known, under various forms and names, to many of the Grecian republics; at Syracuse it was termed *Petalism*. In a monarchy a man may be eminently distinguished without danger; his most ardent admirers form no views of raising him to the throne: but in a republic,

Curse on his virtues, they've undone his country,

may become a popular cry; and a man of eminent talents becomes in some sort an usurper.

"*La Liberté des Pers*," &c. The liberty of the seas, or the English government unmasked, by B. Barrere, 2 vols. 8vo. with a map.

"*Considerations Politiques*," &c. Political and moral considerations, relative to France as constituted a republic, by E. Lefebvre, large 8vo. This work is ably written, and displays extensive views of the subject. The author points out the ascendancy of the women in France as dangerous to republican principles, as they have begun to ridicule both republicanism and patriotism.

"*Code Français*," &c. The French Code, or a collection, in the order of affairs, of the Laws of the Republic; formed in consequence of the labours of the Committee for the classification of the Laws, accompanied by chronological and alphabetical tables: published under the superintendence of the representatives of the people, Cambaceres, and Oudat. This civil code, with the constitution and organic laws, forms three volumes in 12mo. These three volumes are to be followed by the code of civil procedure, and by the penal code.

## ANTIQUITIES.

"*Antiquités Nationales*," &c. It is with pleasure we announce the progress of this collection of the national antiquities of France. Four volumes have already appeared, and the fifth is in the press.

"*Galerie Antique*," &c. The Ancient Gallery, or a collection of the chief ancient works of architecture, sculpture, and painting, folio. Each number is to contain eight prints, without any letter-press. The first presents the Parthenon, or temple of Minerva at Athens.

"*Museum de Florence*," &c. The Museum at Florence, or a Collection of gems, statues, and medals, in the gallery of the grand duke of Tuscany, drawn and engraved by V. A. David, with explanations



tions by Mulot, vol. iv. 4to. This fourth volume has been long expected; volumes v. and vi. having preceded it in publication.

"*Musée des monumens Français*," &c. The Museum of French monuments, or a chronological collection of carvings, statues in marble and in bronze, basso-relievos, and tombs, of celebrated men and women, which may serve the history of France; by A. Lecroix. This first part contains Egyptian and Grecian monuments, chiefly brought to France in the reign of Francis I. The second is to present the Gaulic monuments, and those of the ancient Franks: the third will embrace the remainder. The work will consist of about 36 numbers, each containing four plates, and six pages of text.

The tenth volume of the *Antiquities of Herculaneum*, by David, has appeared in 4to.

"*Dictionnaire des Antiquités*," &c. A Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities, or an abridgment of the great dictionary of Pittiscus, by P. Barral, two thick volumes, 8vo.

"*Origines Gauloises*," &c. Gallic origins, or those of the ancient nations of Europe, derived from their real source; being researches on the tongue, origin, and antiquities of the Celto-Britons of Armorica, by Latour d'Auvergne, 8vo.

#### VOYAGES.

"*Voyage Pittoresque*," &c. A picturesque journey through Istria and Dalmatia, containing a historical description of monuments, views, products, costumes, manners and customs of the inhabitants, folio. This magnificent work appears in numbers. The drawings are by Cassar: and the execution corresponds with the picturesque travels of St. Nou, and Choiseul.

#### BIOGRAPHY.

"*Vie de Voltaire*," &c. The life of Voltaire, followed by anecdotes which compose his private life, 8vo. This work by Duverney is more general and amusing, than the former lives by Deluchet and Condorcet.

"*Memoires Historiques*," &c. Historical Memoirs of Stephanie Louisa de Bourbon-Conti, written by herself, 2vols. large 8vo. sold by the authoress, Rue Cassette, No. 914: all the copies are signed with her hand. This unfortunate lady is the natural daughter of the late prince of Conti. Favoured by her father, and Louis XV. she was destined to a brilliant situation in life; but by infamous intrigues, and artifices, she was withdrawn

at the age of ten years. A forged certificate of her burial imposed even on her father, who died in a full conviction of her fate, and in course without making any provision for her. For fifteen years she remained in the power of her gaoler, who retained her under the false pretext of marriage. She at length made her escape from a cavern, in which she had been confined.

This book, written with every appearance of veracity, is as full of extraordinary incident as a novel. The name of the authoress, the times, and her own character, have enjoined great circumspection with regard to public events; but some very interesting anecdotes may be found concerning the French revolution. Some details also appear of the practical education used by Rousseau; for it was he who, in gratitude to the prince of Conti his benefactor, endeavoured to form the mind of his daughter, and produce a great character. In these memoirs may be discovered the theory of Emilius reduced to practice.

#### BELLES LETTRES.

"*Œuvres de Diderot*." The works of Diderot, published according to his manuscripts, by J. A. Naigeon of the National Institute, 15 large volumes, 8vo. with portrait and other prints. This is the first complete edition of the works of this eminent philosopher. They are so well known that we need not enumerate their titles. The editor promises historical and philosophical memoirs on the life and works of Diderot.

"*Étrennes de Cadmus*." Cadmus's gift, or an amusing manner of teaching to read, without knowing the letters or spelling. This consists of single words, written on slips of paper or card.

"*Soirées littéraires*." Literary evenings, vols. vii. and viii. 8vo. This amusing and instructive collection, presents specimens, and anecdotes, of ancient and modern literature, joined with that of the middle ages.

"*Œuvres de Mancini Nivernois*," vols. vi. vii. and viii. large 8vo. This collection of the works of the ci-devant Duke of Nivernois forms a pleasing accession to modern French literature. Vols. vii. and viii. contain the translation of the spirited poem *Richardetto*, by Fortinguerra.

"*L'Expedition des Argonautes*." The expedition of the Argonauts, or the conquest of the golden fleece, a poem by Apollonius of Rhodes, now first translated into French by Couffin.

"*Œuvres complètes de Helvetius*." The complete

complete works of Helvetius, 14 vols. 18mo. Half a volume of thoughts and reflections now appears for the first time.

"*Œuvres complètes de Florian*." The complete works of Florian, 14 vols. 18mo. with 74 plates.

"*Œuvres de Felix Nogaret*," 2 vols. 12mo. The other volumes are in the press. Some of the tales here given, are far from being remarkable for their delicacy.

"*Les Matinées du Printemps*." Spring Mornings, or diverse works of Mercier of Compeigne, 2 vols. 18mo. This is a continuation of the Autumn Evenings, by the same author; and consists of tales in prose and verse, impromptus, portraits, &c.

"*De mes rapports*," &c. An account of my connexions with John James Rousseau, and of our correspondence, followed by a most important information, by J. Dufaulx, 8vo. The author vindicates himself against some insinuations contained in Rousseau's letters.

"*Poésies de Gray*," &c. Gray's Poems, translated into French, with the English text on the opposite page, and notes in French and English; a work useful to facilitate the learning of the English tongue, especially in the higher kinds of poetry. This is a literal translation; and is said to be well executed. It is with pleasure we see the works of this exquisite poet adorned with fresh laurels.

## POETRY.

"*Almanach des Muses*," &c. Almanack of the Muses for the year vi. (1798.) This work is published annually; and contains the best small poetical pieces that are written in the course of the year.

"*Les Plantes*," &c. The Plants, a Poem, by R. R. Castell, 8vo. This botanical poem is in four cantos. This first treats of the labours of spring, and the attention then due to the young plants, the extirpation of weeds that injure them, and the destruction of insects and animals which ravage the garden. Then follow the loves of plants, and the charms of rural herborization. The second discusses the labours of summer; the third, the treasures of autumn; and the fourth, proceeds to the winter cares of the green-house and stove.

"*Œuvres Agréables*," &c. The pleasing and moral works of the Marquis of Pezai; to which is prefixed a discourse on his life and writings; 2 vols. 12mo. with plates. This poet was the friend of Dorat, and his pieces are remarkable for neatness and brilliancy.

## NOVELS.

"*Victor, ou l'enfant du la forêt*." Victor or the child of the forest, by Dumenil, 4 vols. 12mo. The moral of this novel is, that virtue is superior to all events, and can equally brave the strokes of fortune and the wickedness of men.

"*Aventures de Milord Johnson*, &c. The adventures of Lord Johnson, or the Pleasures of Paris, 2 vols. 12mo. This novel, by the author of the *Quinzaine Anglaise*, is full of wit and pleasantry.

"*Les Dangers de l'intrigue*." The Dangers of Intrigue, a new romance, by Lavallier, 4 vols. 12mo. French manners are well described in this work, and the interest is supported to the termination.

## GEOGRAPHY.

"*Géographie consignée*," &c. Geography taught in a new manner, for the use of the children of the primary schools, with nine coloured maps; by C. Mentelle, 12mo. This new manner consists in first describing the native country, and then travelling in idea to the adjacent states.

Mentelle has also recently published several atlases, general and particular.

## BOTANY.

"*Principes de Botanique*," or Principles of Botany, by Ventenat, 8vo. 14 plates. A clear and precise introduction.

"*Histoire des Champignons*," &c. The history of the mushrooms of France, 12 vols. folio, with 515 plates. This vast work seems to leave nothing to add concerning the various forms, structure, and fructifications of fungi, their uses in diet and medicine, &c.

"*Histoire des plantes venimeuses*," &c. The history of the poisonous and suspected plants of France, 2 vols. with 85 coloured prints. One of the most complete publications of the kind. The author points out the remedies to be used in cases of vegetable poisons.

"*L'Herbier de la France*," &c. The French Herbal, by Bulliard, containing the history of the poisonous and medicinal plants, &c. 15 vols. small folio, with 614 prints. The figures are printed in colour, in imitation of drawings. Below each print is given an anatomical description of the plant, with its uses in diet and medicine: the botanical and vulgar names in Latin and French; with references to preceding botanical works.

"*Histoire des Plantes de l'Europe*," &c. The history of European plants, or elements of practical botany, containing the precise designation of indigenous plants according to the method and principles of Linné, some of the most useful of the foreign



foreign plants, with several recent observations, by Gilibert, 2 vol. 8vo. with many plates.

#### NATURAL HISTORY.

"*Histoire Naturelle*," &c. The natural history of the birds of Africa, by F. Le Vaillant, No. IV. with six plates.

"*Entretiens*," &c. Dialogues between a father and his children on natural history, 4 vols. and 1 of plates, containing 400 figures, by J. C. Debroca.

"*Nouveaux principes de Geologie*," &c. New principles of Geology, compared and opposed to those of the ancient and modern philosophers, and particularly to those of Lamettrerie, by Bertrand, 8vo.

"*Histoire Naturelle des Singes*," &c. The natural history of apes, by J. B. Audebert. The first number of this work has appeared: the whole will comprise about 50 plates, printed in colours. The letter press will describe the manners and habitudes of these animals, with an exact description, &c.

"*Nouvelle mecanique*," &c. A new mechanism of the motions of man and animals, by Barthey, 8vo. The author proves man to be naturally a biped; and proceeds to several ingenious remarks on the subjects indicated in the title page.

#### MEDICINE.

"*Memoire chimique*," &c. A chymical memoir on the Tetanus of the wounded, by C. Laurent, 8vo. On opening fifteen bodies of those who died through this disorder, they were all found to have worms in the intestines. Seven patients, who took sweet mercury, and other vermifuges, recovered, most of them after passing worms. The author concludes that worms alone are the cause of Tetanus, and that the long-entertained opinion that it is caused by the wounds is erroneous.

"*Recueil periodique de la société de médecine de Paris*." This journal appears every month, being a continuation of the "*Journal de Médecine*," suspended at the end of 1793.

"*De l'Epilepsie*," &c. On the epilepsy in general, and particularly of that produced by moral causes; by Doussain Dubreuil, 8vo. That sort of epilepsy produced by cares or passions is here treated with considerable skill.

"*Système methodique*," &c. A methodical system of the nomenclature and classification of the muscles of the human body, by C. L. Dumas, 4to. Montpellier.

"*Traité du régime*," &c. A treatise on the regimen of diet, in the cure of maladies, by J. Tissot. 8vo.

"*Exposition d'un système*," The expo-

sition of a more simple system of medicine, or an illustration and confirmation of the medical doctrine of Brown, translated from the Italian, with notes, by Lèveillé. 8vo.

"*Du degré de la certitude*," &c. Of the degrees of certainty in medicine, by J. G. Cabanis, 8vo. The author considers medicine as not only proper to relieve bodily complaints, but to rectify the mind, and deliver it from many errors; thence he connects it with politics, and social order.

"*Recherches*," &c. Researches and experiments on the vital principle, by J. J. Sue, physician, 8vo. with plates. The author shews that sensation exists not solely in the brain, but in other parts of the system, without any common focus.

"*De la Médecine Operative*," &c. Of Medical operations, or those in surgery which are of most frequent occurrence, by C. Sabatier, 3 vols. 8vo. The reputation of Sabatier ensures success to this work. Surgical operations naturally fall into two classes, those performed on the bones; and those on the flesh, and other soft parts of the human body. The present work only comprises the latter: those on bones being reserved for a future publication.

"*Œuvres Medico-Chirurgicales*," &c. Medico-Surgical works, containing observations and dissertations on various departments of physic and surgery, by Colomb, large 8vo. The editors of this collection are entitled to the thanks of medical students. It presents dissertations on several interesting topics; for example, the carnification of the bones, on lymph, on cancer, on the gout, &c.

"*Essai sur les Fievres*," &c. An Essay on intermittent Fevers, and the use and effects of febrifuges, particularly of quinquina, by Bouffey, 8vo. The character of fevers is here considered under different aspects, and unfolded with clearness and precision. The various febrifuges are reduced to their just estimation; particularly the bark, which the author regards as being often used too empirically. Practical rules are given in order to render its use more easy, and its success more certain. This author has attempted to treat the effects of this medicine on the human frame, in analogy with its chymical principles.

"*Observations*," &c. Observations on the nature and treatment of rickets, by Portal, 8vo.

"*Actes*," &c. Transactions of the medical society of Brussels, vol. i. part 1. 8vo.

"*Re-*

"*Recueil*," &c. A collection of the transactions of the society of health of Lyons, from the first to the fifth year of the Republic; or memoirs and observations on various subjects of surgery, medicine, and natural history, an 8vo. volume. This work contains many interesting remarks on the art of healing diseases, and new phenomena in animal economy and natural history. There are added two posthumous productions of the celebrated Lecat, and chirurgical observations by David of Rouen.

#### HALF-YEARLY RETROSPECT OF GERMAN LITERATURE FOR 1798.

IN our first account of the progress of literature in Germany, we were obliged to compress into a very limited compass many useful and important publications, and to offer only a cursory and unconnected view of the principal works which have lately issued from the German press.

Within the last six months, or rather since the first attempt made in this country, to introduce the British reader to a more general acquaintance with foreign literature, we have gratefully observed the satisfaction expressed by a discerning public, on this occasion, we have redoubled our efforts, multiplied our resources, and are thus enabled to give a more comprehensive and systematic view of German literature, than has hitherto been offered in this country.

It is a gratification of a superior kind, when amidst the turbulence of war, or at least the constant apprehension of new hostilities, we observe the German muse proceeding undismayed, and with a firm step, in her literary pursuits. To afford our readers henceforth a regular and systematic view of the ample and diversified stores with which that country incessantly supplies the lovers of literature, we have, after mature deliberation, adopted the following *new* division of the different branches of science. As the attempt is equally arduous and novel, we claim much indulgence, together with a candid appreciation of its merit, as well as of its practical utility.

We now proceed to lay our arrangement before the reader.

#### *I. Elementary Sciences.*

Education.  
Natural History.  
Geography.  
History.  
Politics.  
Belles Lettres—The Drama.

#### *II. The abstract Sciences.*

Philology.  
Logic and Metaphysics.  
Moral Philosophy.

#### *III. Practical Sciences.*

Mathematics.  
Natural philosophy.  
Chemistry.  
Economy, rural and domestic.  
The Arts and Manufactures.  
Commerce.

#### *IV. Professional Sciences.*

Theology.  
Jurisprudence.  
Medicine and Surgery.

#### *Miscellanies.*

In conformity with this general arrangement, we propose to furnish the reader with succinct and accurate accounts of every new and interesting publication which has lately appeared in Germany, and which deserves to be recorded in our *semestrial* Retrospect. Under the head of

#### EDUCATION.

We cannot, consistently with our limits, mention any other but the following important work: "K. WEILLER'S Essay on the immediate purpose of Education, consistently with the principles of Kant: 8vo. 216 pp. 1798." In this valuable treatise, the author has laid down the ideas and principles of education now established by the *critical* philosophers of Germany in the most perspicuous and convincing manner. The whole of this truly classical performance is interspersed with the most apposite, and frequently entertaining illustrations. To characterize in some degree, the philosophic spirit of the author, we cannot resist the temptation of translating the following passages: "Had mankind always found as much amusement among useful members of society, as with well-trained dogs and horses: had they discovered as much taste for talents and virtues, as for fruit reared at an improper season; as much satisfaction in rational actions, as they show in admiring useless vaulting and rope-dancing; the method of forming the minds of men, would long have arrived at a similar degree of perfection to that of training animals, our seminaries of education would be adapted to purposes more certain and established than the hot-houses of the garden. Let our academic institutions become as interesting as our places of amusements, and our schools as important as our riding-houses and stables! If you will no longer stupify the heads of children, by premature exertions to make them learned, they will spontaneously acquire wisdom; if you will not provoke their obitancy



obstinacy by your untimely zeal of converting them into angels, they will become pious and good without your interference: and if you will cease to render them unhappy by your unlimited desire of procuring happiness, they will soon learn how to be happy without you. Instead of your multiplied arts contrived for their apparent advantage, teach them the only and much greater art, namely that of avoiding disadvantages and dangers, and you may expect with confidence, that nature, almost without a guide will accomplish the rest."

#### NATURAL HISTORY.

As a counterpart to Mr. Stackhouse's late work on the marine plants growing on the British coasts, intitled "*Nereis Britannica*," &c. with 12 coloured plates, folio, we are happy to announce the following curious publication, which has lately appeared at Nürnberg: "*Icones fucorum cum characteribus systematicis, synonymis auctorum et descriptionibus novarum specierum*." (Latin and German) By E. J. C. ESPER, Doctor and Professor of Philosophy at Erlang. No. I. 54 pp. quarto, with 24 plates. Both authors appear to have been unacquainted with each other's undertaking, when they devoted their time and labour to the investigation of the very complicated family of cryptogamic plants; the principal share of merit, however, is due to Mr. Stackhouse, who has furnished us not only with elegant and accurate plates coloured from nature, but likewise given the most satisfactory descriptions of the plants themselves; while the German editor has collected a number of synonyms, without any further analysis or critical examination of the subjects before him. GUSTAVI PAYKULL, "*Fauna Suecica. Insecta*." tom. I. 1798. 358 pp. 8vo. is a work of uncommon merit, as the author has for many years past devoted himself with great zeal to entomological inquiries. It is to be regretted only that he has too implicitly and sometimes at the expence of his own judgment, followed the system of Fabricius. This volume in its alphabetical arrangement extends as far as *Heterocerus*. Mr. P. has reduced the species of every prolific genus to families; each species is minutely described, and even the varieties have been carefully noted; the place of abode is also marked in every species, and we find many ingenious hints and doubts relative to the accurate determination of the genus throughout this volume. The principal authors quoted as authorities are, Fabricius, Linnæus, Herbst; and

occasionally others of less note.—Another production, but of a much inferior value, in this department is "*Fauna Ingræ Prodrômus, exhibens methodicam descriptionem insectorum agri Petropolensis præmissa mammalium, avium, amphibiorum et piscium enumeratione*." Auctore JOHANNES CEDERHJELM." Cum tab. III. pictis, 1798, xviii. and 348 pp. 8vo. All the new species of insects described in this volume might have been easily comprised in one page, instead of filling 350 with a useless catalogue of names, and even these often inaccurately described!—A more valuable and useful work, though of very slow progress, is the "*Flora Europæa, inchoata a J. J. RÔMER*." Fasciculus I. iii. 1797, 1798, 8vo. The plates are well executed and the descriptions accurate; the author intends to give annually 32 plates only, so that there are no hopes of seeing this undertaking concluded in less than half a century, upon the most moderate calculation of the objects which it is intended to comprehend.—With a view to facilitate the acquisition of botanical knowledge, we meet with a very excellent work, intitled: "*Botanical Epitome for the use of German amateurs of Botany in general, and Horticulturists, Apothecaries, and Economists in particular*:" by J. F. W. KOCH, in three parts, with plates, 1798. We consider this as a more systematic and easy introduction to botany, than either that by Prof. Martin, or Mrs. Priscilla Wakefield, published in this country.—Of that splendid work, mentioned in our last retrospect "*Sertum Hannoveranum, seu plantæ rariores quæ in hortis regis Hanoveræ vicinis coluntur*;" Auctore J. C. WENDLAND, the 4th number of Vol. I. has very lately appeared with six coloured plates, folio, which represent the following rare plants, viz. tab. XIX. *Zerumbet speciosum*. Tab. XX. *Protea scolymus*. (*Scolyma cephalæ* Linn.) Tab. XXI. *Protea nectarina*. Tab. XXII. *Allamanda cathartica*. Tab. XXIII. *Gnaphalium ferrugineum*. Tab. XXIV. *Aster tomentosus*.—The same industrious author has likewise published in the present year his "*Botanical Observations*," together with some new genera and species of plants; 16 sheets, small folio, and four plates. This excellent small work consists of three sections, in which Mr. WENDLAND has comprised 73 original observations, 5 new genera, and 43 new species of plants: the author holds out the agreeable promise that he will continue this useful publication, as soon as he has collected a sufficient number of interesting facts.

facts.—Another excellent work in the same department is, “*The Botanical Magazine (Archiv)*”, of which we observe the third number of Vol. I. with 7 plates and 816 pp. quarto, edited by the author of the *Flora Europæa*, Dr. ROMER, whose merits in botanical researches are universally acknowledged.—An important and beautiful work, in which many new species of mosses, together with all those described by Dillen, Linnæus, Necker, Weifs, Weber, Hedwig, Ehrhart, Dickson, &c. are systematically arranged, and wherein every thing on this subject is diligently collected that could be discovered on the Alps and mountains of Switzerland, as well as in the national Phytophylacium at Paris, is the following, of which the second volume has just appeared at Gotha and Paris: “*Muscologia recentiorum, s. analysis, historia et descriptio methodica omnium muscorum frondosorum hucusque cognitorum, ad normam Hedwigii, a S. E. BRIDEL. Cum Tabulis æneis.*” The author warmly expresses the gratitude he owes to Jussieu, Desfontaines, Billardiere and other members of the national institute at Paris, where the famous herbarium of Haller is now deposited, and where he was permitted to inspect and copy both public and private collections. He is further assisted by Mr. Abraham Thomas, the botanical amanuensis to the late Baron Haller; and a third volume will soon conclude this laborious and valuable performance.—We cannot omit to mention another interesting publication in this department, which promises to throw light on the ancient names of many vegetable bodies, now either totally misunderstood or confounded with others: *Antiquitatum botanicarum Specimen primum, auctore CURTIO SPRENGELIO, M. D. &c. Accedunt Tabule æneæ, 1798, 15 sheets, small quarto.* As the descriptions of plants given by the ancients, on account of their unacquaintance with the true and permanent characters of vegetable productions, are frequently so obscure, that even the most complete knowledge of the Greek and Arabic languages is insufficient to discover, “*quid sonent nomina plantarum Græca aut Arabica, aut quæ res his vocibus designantur,*” the learned author has undertaken the arduous task of decyphering many old and obscure names of plants, particularly those occasioned by the *Pinax* of the unwary Bauhin, whose hasty assertions the subsequent compilers of dic-

tionaries have blindly copied. Prof. Sprengel acknowledges the great merit in this branch of science due to *O. Celsus* whom he considers nearly equal in point of erudition and sound disquisition to the learned *Saumaïse*.

## GEOGRAPHY.

In order to contrast the prevailing manners and customs of Paris with those of London, and to point out every striking occurrence relative to the morals and politics of both capitals, a periodical work has been commenced in the present year at Weimar, intitled “*London and Paris, with coloured and plain caricatures, drawings, plans, and songs set to music;*” by two anonymous authors who reside in these capitals, and furnish the German editor with the latest and most interesting accounts of the moral and physical changes taking place in the constitution of France and England.—Among the topographical descriptions lately published, we shall mention: “*Dr. J. Reinegg’s General topographico-historical description of the country called Caucasus; edited from his posthumous papers, by F. E. SCHROEDER, in two volumes, with a coloured map.*” Although these volumes contain many absurd, whimsical, and incredible stories, they may nevertheless afford some amusement and information to the reader, as that country in the present imperfect state of geography is in a manner a “*terra incognita.*”—Among the elementary works in this branch of science we mention “*The Elements of Geography, for beginners, by F. P. WILSEN, &c. in two parts, and an appendix, containing questions to promote an agreeable and useful repetition of geographical instruction.*” Although the author deserves some praise for the ingenious manner in which he has delivered the rudiments of Geography, yet we cannot in justice to the public pronounce his performance free from inaccuracies and errors, particularly in what relates to the population of different countries. Another and more useful as well as more correct work of this nature is “*The Geographical Manual; being a Supplement to the Elementary Treatise by Seiler.*” The anonymous author has been at considerable pains to collect whatever has a tendency to amuse and instruct the tyro in Geography. As a work of peculiar merit in furnishing us with authentic accounts of the present dominions belonging to the house of Prussia, we must take notice of the “*Topographico, statistical, and geographical Dictionary*”



of all the Prussian States; or a description of all the provinces, districts, towns, bailiwicks, market-towns, villages, estates, rivers, lakes, mountains, &c. in the Prussian dominions;" by L. KRUG. Five volumes, octavo, of this extensive publication have hitherto appeared, which go no farther in the alphabetical order than the word *Koenig*, so that we may reckon upon five or six other volumes. In the present state of things, when the boundaries as well as the stability of whole states are liable to the same changes as the property of private individuals, it is almost to be regretted, that works of this unstable nature should at all appear; as it is highly probable that the accounts we read in the present year will not apply to the next. Yet it must be confessed that Mr. KRUG is entitled to great praise for this laborious and well-executed undertaking.—The very imperfect and inaccurate descriptions we possess of the newly-acquired dominions of the king of Prussia, or the share he has usurped from the dismembered republic of Poland, have induced a Mr. FR. HERSBERG to publish "*A Geographical and Statistical Sketch of South and New Prussia, together with the part of Cracow, now united to Silisia, and the cities of Danzig and Thorn.*" According to this author, the present possessions of the king of Prussia, (besides those in Germany) or the united kingdoms of Prussia, amount to no less than 3026 German square miles, or about 15000 English measure.

## HISTORY.

Although the Germans do not excel either the French or the English historical writers, yet they are industrious and accurate compilers; they possess several works of considerable merit in this branch of science, at the head of which stands the "*Bibliotheca historica, instructa a B. G. STRUVIO, aucta ab C. G. BUDERO; nunc vero a J. G. MEUSELIO ita digesta, amplificata et emendata, ut pene novum opus videri possit;*" vol. viii. part ii. 1796. pp. 274. vol. ix. part i. 1797. pp. 393. vol. ix. part ii. 1798. pp. 440. 8vo. In these three parts of the work we find the accounts of *French historians* still continued, though the author began them with the *second part of the sixth volume*, and as far as can be foreseen, they probably will occupy some part of the tenth volume. The reign of Lewis XIV. alone fills the second part of vol. viii. Such diffuseness in a classical work is really deplorable, as many of our contemporaries will not have the satisfaction to see the history of their

own country here treated of, during a period pregnant with the most important events. One of the most entertaining and characteristic works, relative to the modern history of France, is the following: "*Fragments from Paris in the fourth year of the French Republic;* by Dr. F. J. L. MEYER, &c. Second edition, 1798. 2 vols. 8vo." These fragments embrace a great variety of objects, but principally the prevailing spirit and the situation of the inhabitants of Paris, their amusements and civic festivals, the character of the higher and lower state-officers, the course of public affairs, the institutions for public instruction, the diffusion of science, the perfecting of the mechanical and liberal arts, the inventions of the artists, the works of the learned, &c. It may be easily expected in a work of this kind, that the author has paid particular attention to the present state of science. This subject indeed forms the fairest part in the picture of Paris, and affords an interesting and agreeable prospect to every one who is not prejudiced against all the consequences of the French revolution, which but too frequently excites the most painful sensations in the philanthropic and unbiassed observer. "Never," says the author, "has the spirit of invention been more kindled, the exertions of individuals to improve upon former, and to inquire into the later discoveries which promise national advantages, been displayed in a more energetic manner, than has been done since the revolution, in Paris—the general assemblage of the most ingenious men in that extensive republic." "*The Annals of German Universities,*" edited by R. W. JUSTI and F. S. MURFINNA, deserve to be mentioned as an useful and instructive publication to those, who are desirous of obtaining more accurate information respecting the external state of literature in Germany, than can be acquired from any other topographical or statistical sources. In the analysis of the diplomatic art the Germans have, particularly since the epoch made in this branch of political science by the "*Statistical Accounts of Schloezer,*" produced some valuable elementary treatises. In every respect we must give the preference to J. C. GATTERER's "*Outlines of the Diplomatic Art;*" with 12 plates, pp. 374. (besides the preface and table of contents) 8vo. Gottingen, 1798. This work affords a complete view of the theory of that intricate art, and it is to be hoped, the aged and learned author will soon fulfil his promise, by furnishing the diplomatic corps with the *practical part* to his classical



cal book intitled "*Elementa artis diplomaticæ universalis*" Another production deserving much praise, though limited to a particular kingdom, is "*The Statistical View of Hungary*;" by M. SCHWARDTNER, professor of the Diplomatic Art, &c. pp. 606 8vo. The literature of Hungary cannot boast of a work more elegantly written, and more authentic in its information than the present. Its ingenious author is already known to the literary world by his "*Introductio in artem diplomaticam, præcipue hungaricam*" which appeared in 1790, and which is not a less favourable specimen of his talent in treating political subjects with particular energy of language, than the "*Statistical View*" before mentioned. It is however much to be regretted, that the publication of this treatise has been delayed since the year 1796, when the Professor sent the manuscript to the *Censorian office*, where it has been detained for nearly two years; a period of time in which many new and important changes and events have taken place, the omission of which is not a little derogatory to this excellent performance.—To elucidate the history of the same kingdom, and to rescue from oblivion many scarce historical fragments, we are happy to meet with an author who has long been honourably known in the republic of letters, as the editor of the first monthly magazine published in the German language in Hungary, intitled "*The Hungarian Mercury*," but which he was obliged again to relinquish, partly for want of support, and partly on account of the late reforms and contre-reforms under three different emperors. His late publication is the following: "*Scriptores Regum Hungaricorum minores, hactenus inediti, synchroni aut proxime coævi*; &c. M. G. KOVACHICH, tom. I. ad Comitem Franc. de Paula Balassa Gyarmath. Præmittitur Epistola ad Comitem Georgium Bánffy, Transilvaniae Gubernatorem, qua diaria de variis rebus Hung. industria diversorum auctorum conscripta serie chronologica præcensentur. pp. xxxii. 104, and 350 8vo." (with a plate representing Count Balassa). Of this interesting collection the editor proposes to publish four volumes every year; it contains a careful selection of short accounts of the negotiations of Ambassadors or other Plenipotentiaries, letters, narratives of particular actions and events, concise journals of different Diets, &c.—One of the most philosophic attempts in universal history is K. L. WOLTMANN'S "*Outlines of the Ancient History of Mankind*;"

of which the second volume has lately been published, and which may serve as a model of good style and reasoning. The author, a young man of the most promising talents, is professor of history in the university of Jena, and from the specimen here given, the Germans possess in Mr. WOLTMANN an historian, who does honour to his country, and whose writings will, no doubt, procure him the reputation due to his merits. The principal feature of these "*Outlines*" is, that the author has carefully and successfully endeavoured to avoid one of the most dangerous temptations to which historical writers are but too frequently exposed, that of estimating and delineating the complexion of former ages according to our modern notions, and of furnishing the ancient sages and heroes with our present representations or modes of thinking. His performance well deserves to be studied by every lover of history, as it is not only amusing and interesting, but leads the attentive reader to new reflections and speculations.—Among the great number of elementary books which continually appear in the department of history we shall mention here the three following: J. G. A. GALLETI'S "*Elements of History, calculated for Schools*." As a work purposely designed for the use of schools, and well calculated to fulfil that intention, "J. G. GALLETI'S "*Elements of History*," second edition enlarged, pp. 242. 8vo. 1797; and "*An Epitome of Universal History, equally adapted for instruction and amusement*;" by the same author: part ii. pp. 404. 8vo. 1797. The latter is rather an extensive publication, as the volume before us extends no further than the origin of the Persian empire; its various changes; the undertakings of the Persians against the Greeks; the war of Peloponnesus; the later disturbances which happened among the particular states of Greece; and the transition of the Romans from a monarchical to a republican and aristocratic form of government. The merit of this Epitome is greatly enhanced by the just and concise view he gives of the private life, the domestic and rural oeconomy, the arts and sciences, the religion, together with the political and military constitution of the most remarkable nations within the æra of the Persian Monarchy. In justice to the public, however, we cannot suppress the remark that both these useful works of Mr. GALLETI'S, (who is one of the professors at the Lyceum of Gotha) are not altogether free from a few historical inaccuracies.



inaccuracies. Among the politico-historical works which have lately appeared of separate countries or governments, the following deserves particular notice, although the anonymous author does not venture to enter into a critical examination of facts and motives: "*Annals of the Government of Catherine II. Empress of Russia*;" volume first, containing the subject of legislation, pp. 252, 8vo. 1798. In the biographical department of history we shall mention two excellent works which well deserve a place in our Retrospect, on account of the impartial and superior manner in which they are written: 1. "*The Necrologist, containing accounts of the lives of remarkable Germans who have died in the current year.*" Of this instructive publication appear every year two volumes since its commencement in 1790; but it is matter of regret that the publisher, Mr. PORTHES of Gotha, is nearly two years behind, in the order of time, with this periodical work, so that we have as yet seen only the second volume for the year 1797; which contains, besides the short supplementary accounts, nine distinct biographies, and begins with that of the celebrated Count Herzberg, late minister of state to the King of Prussia, "a man whose name alone is his greatest encomium, and whose memory will be revered by a grateful posterity, and rendered immortal in the history of Prussia." 2. "*Memoirs of great and meritorious Statesmen; with an Appendix, containing the picture of a new-appointed Judge.*" The editor of this collection is a Mr. V. MITTERBERG, privy-counsellor to the Duke of SAXE COBURG: he has here given ten lives of eminent Germans who stand high in the list of the public characters, principally of the last century; so that the reading of this book may afford a tolerable criterion of the state of political science in that country during the 16th and 17th centuries. Mr. V. M. has annexed an "Essay on the beneficial influence which biographies have on the education of youth;" in which we meet with many original and pertinent remarks.

#### POLITICS.

In reviewing this important department of modern literature among the Germans, we were not a little surprised to find that their political writers, almost without exception, either conceal their real names, or adopt fictitious ones. Such is the effect of the detestable censorial offices in the different states of Ger-

many, that men of real talent and genius are obliged either to suppress their political opinions, or to send their manuscripts to some distant country, for instance, Holland, Denmark, or Switzerland, where the censorial offices are less arbitrary and less severe. One of the best publications of the anonymous kind is the following: "*What important Events, and what additional Gain in Human and Civil Happiness, have we to expect in the next Century?*" pp. 270, 8vo. Although the author considers many of the events to be developed by futurity in too favourable a light, yet his ideas throughout the whole are correct, while they are expressed with animated philanthropy. The result of his inquiries respecting our future prospect is briefly as follows: 1. "The human race will become more healthy and vigorous: 2. The cultivation of the understanding will be equally adapted to the strength and well-being of mind and body, as well as to the different relations of men: 3. Men will attain to a higher degree of moral perfection: 4. The different governments of Europe will improve still farther the means of protecting their subjects from the horrors of war, famine, &c.: 5. Political and moral science will be more intimately united: 6. Justice will spread its dominion among men, and 7. Innocent mirth and joy will enhance the value of human life." The next political and likewise anonymous work of which we take notice, is a counterpart to Professor Kant's late 'Project to a perpetual Peace,' intitled "*Heteroclitical Ideas on the natural Boundaries of the European States, as the Foundation of a perpetual Peace.*" In this small work the author principally endeavours to demonstrate that the chains of mountains are the strongest and everlasting walls of defence, and that according to the situation of these, most of the European states ought to be differently divided into other more connected river-valleys, which should be always defended by mountains. As long, however, as the imperfect administration of states renders wars not only possible, but even necessary, we can assure the author that neither natural boundaries of rivers, nor walls of granite, will save mankind from war, bloodshed, and destruction: yet we agree with him, that as soon as the conceit of the real or imaginary superiority of the present European states over their less powerful neighbours vanishes; as soon as they have exhausted the country of resources in men and



and money, then no doubt, with their increasing weakness, they also improve in sentiments of humanity, and negotiation at length opens the road to peace. "*An Essay on the Means of restoring the former Cheapness of Provisions, and obviating the present Dearth occasioned by Usury and Forestalling,*" by M. S. v. K. deserves to be mentioned here as the ingenious production of a lady, who in the introduction charges the male writers with a species of neglect rather singular than true, that they are more anxious to furnish the world with productions of the mind, than to attend to the wants of the body, or, as expressed in the original, to the *concerns of an empty stomach*.

## BELLES LETTRES.

As the age of novel-writing appears to be rather on the decline in Germany, since the *Ghosts* and *Spectres* have nearly suppressed the purer and more natural modes of fiction, we shall for the present mention only two or three works of this kind, which are not tinged with the marvellous. "*The Life and Manners of George Waller, probably described by himself.*" pp. 400. 8vo. is by no means destitute of genuine wit and satire, while it abounds in sound moral reflections.—"*The Sunday Humors of Mr. Tobias Lausche, Inn-keeper, at the sign of the Blue Angel, on the frontiers of Swabia.*" pp. 198. 8vo. 1798. These humorous tales recommend themselves by the elegant simplicity with which they are written, and the attractive manner in which familiar events are rendered interesting to every reader who is not altogether void of social and moral feelings. "*Peter Schmoll and his Neighbours;*" by the author of Erasmus Schleicher: Part I. pp. 325. 1798. This is the production of Mr. Cramer, a celebrated political victim in Germany, and a man of unquestionable talents as a writer, if his style were not so eccentric and frequently loaded with vulgar expressions. Yet we must nevertheless admire his animated method of representing the variegated events of life, the very interesting and frequently surprising situations and changes in his compositions, his lively and sudden effusions of fancy, nay even his sprightliness, together with his cheerful and sincere sympathy with the character of his heroes and their occurrences in life; all these excellent qualities are amply displayed in the present work. Although the specimens of sacred elocution in Germany are not scarce, and the number of "*Sermons,*" and "*Materials or Texts for Sermons,*" are almost

incredible, yet it cannot be denied that the Germans possess very few elementary works on elocution. Since our last Retrospect, we meet with only one work of that nature, and this is a second edition of "*Dr. C. T. Babrdt's Rhetoric for the use of Church-Orators; with a Preface and Additions,*" by J. D. Büchling. This original work of the late Dr. B. has met with great opposition among the orthodox German divines, on account of the singular tenets and principles it contains, which are considered as subversive to the interests of christianity. Independently of this remark, however, the "*Rhetoric*" before us is an admirable treatise which stands very high in the estimation of the more heterodox theologians of Germany, as a performance containing many classical and instructive observations. Among the late dramatic publications we have to announce one not well calculated for the stage: "*The Death of Gustav III;*" a psychologico-moral picture of the errors to which enthusiasm and the passions may lead: In four books: with five plates. pp. lvi. and 702. The author subscribes himself after the elaborate preface, G. C. HORST, and his chief object in this dramatic attempt avowedly is, to exhibit to view the dangers of political enthusiasm, to caution the reader against the snares of fanciful innovation, to show that those who wish to realize in the actual world, whatever presents itself as a plausible idea, will in the end necessarily meet with disappointments, and that the tragical event of Gustav's death is another striking instance to prove, in a convincing manner, the dignified and amiable superiority of virtue over hateful vice. The author is at considerable pains to represent the character of the unfortunate king in the most favourable light, and to bestow particular praise on his undaunted and persevering spirit, but with all the warmth of declamation he has left a chasm in the character of this prince, which the most exquisite flattery of his courtiers cannot supply. And this material defect in the consistency of character arises chiefly from the circumstance, that in every thing the king says and does, even where he, remote from witnesses, follows the impulse of his heart, there prevails a certain coldness which, entirely against the design of the author, renders the sincerity of his sentiments and feelings suspicious. It is further an objectionable trait in the king's private character, that all his thoughts, even the recollection of his humane and tender actions, are in a manner



manner tinged with the idea of his royal sublimity and dignity; that all who surround him are not only on every occasion lavishing upon him the most fulsome praises of his virtues and his sublime genius; but that he generally listens to such encomiums with apparent satisfaction, and considers them as due to his royal person.—In order to banish the absurd and frequently licentious ballads that prevail in Germany, and to introduce tunes which, together with proper themes adapted to the meanest capacities, should disseminate sound and virtuous sentiments, there has lately appeared at Leipzig the first number of a collection intitled “*New popular Songs, to accompany the harpsichord*,” composed by J. R. BERLS, &c. pp. 64. fol. This number contains thirty songs set to music, all of which are above mediocrity in respect to versification as well as musical composition. Lastly, under this head, we cannot omit to mention the appearance of a new and thoroughly improved translation of “*William Shakspeare’s Plays*,” by J. J. ESCHENBURG, vol. i. pp. 565. 8vo. 1798. With great justice may this be called a new translation; for since the second and improved edition of Shakspeare’s plays appeared in 1775, by the same editor who undertook to improve the first edition attempted by Wieland, and to enlarge or rather complete it by adding 18 more of Shakspeare’s plays which Mr. W. had omitted, no other translator could be found who would satisfy and realize the rigorous demands then made by the German critics, who went so far as to maintain that Shakspeare’s plays ought not to be read, unless in the original. Notwithstanding those extravagant assertions, it is now generally allowed that the present translation by Mr. Eschenburg (who may be justly styled the Nestor of German and English literature) is, without exception, the most correct and elegant of all the translations ever published of our great bard, in any of the European languages.

## PHILOLOGY.

Among the numerous translations which from time to time appear in Germany of the Latin classics, we find but very few, indeed, which deserve honourable mention in this Retrospect. One of the most faithful versions in which the spirit of the original has been completely preserved, is “*Cicero’s Treatise on the sufficiency of Virtue to Happiness*,” one of the Tusculan questions, rendered into German, and accompanied with remarks and prefatory explanations, by C. F. BÖHME.

pp. xviii. and 120. 8vo. We cannot speak with familiar praise of “*M. T. Cicero’s Dialogue on Friendship*,” translated and accompanied with remarks, introduction, &c. by J. A. Ehring. pp. xvi. and 130. 8vo. This is the *fifth* translation of the above-mentioned treatise, since the year 1774, and in the latest Leipzig Catalogue of new books, we find a *sixth* offered to public notice. Although the present cannot in justice be called the most contemptible of the five translations we have seen, yet it is far from deserving the character of accuracy, as in a variety of instances it deviates from the true sense of the original. “*M. Accii Plauti Comædia Captivi*; the Prisoners, a comedy, by Plautus, translated and illustrated by Dr. A. C. Borheck, &c.” “*The Epic Poems of Publius Ovidius Naso*,” translated from the Latin into iambic verses, and accompanied with illustrations, by G. F. W. THYME; and “*C. D. JANI’s Explanatory Remarks to the Odes and Epodes of Horace*,” vol. iii. 1798. pp. 278. 8vo. These three publications we have placed together, as, on account of their great inferiority, they do not deserve to be separately reviewed. Less deserving of censure, though far from being a perfect and elegant version, is “*Virgil’s Æneid*,” translated by J. SPITZENBERGER, pp. 456, 8vo. Considering that Mr. S. had all the difficulties of the *Bavarian* dialect to encounter, and that the language of this Roman poet is nearly bordering on perfection, the present translation deserves much praise with respect to fidelity; although it cannot be pronounced free from inaccuracies in point of versification. To facilitate the study of the dramatic works of Seneca, and to lay the foundation of a future complete commentary on these admirable productions, we meet with a classical production, which cannot be recommended to the English scholar in too favourable terms, whether it be considered as a specimen of sound criticism, or as an elegant piece of composition, “*Hercules furens. Specimen novæ recensione tragædiarum L. Annaei Seneca. Auctore*,” TOR-KILLO BADEN, 1798, pp. xv. and 176, 8vo. The learned editor has made use of numerous and respectable sources; for besides *seventeen manuscripts* never before compared, he has availed himself of the oldest editions of Seneca, with which the royal library at Copenhagen has amply furnished him, so that he has here communicated to us all the valuable remarks made on this subject since the days of Grænovius, whose text he has revised in the most



most careful and judicious manner. In the department of Greek literature, we were agreeably surprized with the following excellent work: "*A Critical Dictionary of the Greek and German Languages, to be used in reading the Greek prophane writers,*" by J. G. SCHNEIDER, professor in the university of Frankfort on the Oder, vol. i. from A to K. pp. 847, large 8vo. The editor, who is one of the oldest Greek professors in Germany, has directed his principal attention, in the composition of this Dictionary, to etymology, analogy, as well as the general and particular derivation of words; he has confined himself entirely to the *secular* Greek writers, as the Germans possess a variety of particular dictionaries of the Old and New Testament, together with others explaining the ecclesiastical writers in the Greek language; a circumstance which has induced the learned editor to omit even all the proper nouns. "*A Complete Greek Grammar for Schools and Academies,*" by A. F. BERNHARDI, 8vo. Berlin, pp. 366. This elementary work is composed upon the same principles which the author has adopted in his Latin grammar, published about three years ago: it shows throughout the man of reflection, and it must be confessed in justice to Mr. BERNHARDI, that his is not only the most complete, but likewise the most useful and perspicuous Greek grammar of which the German schools can boast. "*Aristotle's Politics and Fragments of Economy,*" translated from the Greek, and accompanied with remarks, together with an analysis of the text, by J. G. SCHLOSSER, part I. p. 40 and 356, 8vo. 1798. This is the first attempt of the kind in the German language, and Mr. SCHLOSSER, although frequently misled to make partial and shallow remarks, by his excessive hatred to every other but a monarchical form of government, and by his passionate opposition to the progress of 'Critical Philosophy,' has nevertheless displayed a considerable share of judgment and philological information in this elegant version. To justify in some degree our assertion, we shall quote some observations from the introduction, p. xix. 'Socrates believed that true philosophy could and ought to regulate the daily actions of human life, and in this alone it ought to display its whole power and influence. To Plato philosophy appeared of a more sublime nature: whoever will approach to its divine precepts, ought, according to him, to rise above the common class of men, Aristotle,

lastly, was of opinion that philosophy ought to proceed on its own path, and should at most, only now and then condescend to answer the purposes of life, in order to prevent every where confusion and irregularity. Thus the first of these philosophers wished to form only good and noble men; the second would have no other but semi-gods; and the third was satisfied with tolerable men only.' By these characteristic remarks, Mr. SCHLOSSER wishes to show the different points of view in which those three men of antiquity have considered philosophy; but his comparative statement is not critically correct. If we make a proper and due distinction between the theory and practice of philosophy, it is highly probable that all these ancients looked upon philosophy as a science, *which raises man above the common herd of his species, and which deserves to be more practically employed for the improvement of mankind.* The semi-gods of Plato are certainly no other than the good and noble men of Socrates, and it can by no means be proved, that Aristotle wished to form tolerable men only. "*Xenophontis Memorabilia Socratis græce.* Editio tertia emendatio et auctior, p. viii and 188, 8vo." The former edition of this small work was published by STROTH, and the present editor, Mr. Ettinger, of Gotha, has carefully corrected the text of ERNESTI (which STROTH had almost literally copied) according to the late improvements made by ZEURE, SCHNEIDER, SCHUTZ, and WEISKE. The last article we shall mention, in Greek literature, is a tolerable translation of "*Hesiod's Poems,*" by C. H. SCHUTZE, p. 302. 8vo. This version has somewhat the appearance of the classical labours of Prof. Voss; but it does not stand the test of criticism as well as these, for it is not only deficient in point of easy and well-turned expressions, but also frequently imperfect and unharmonious in the terminations of the verses. The essays annexed by the translator contain quotations from other writers, rather than original remarks, puns and plays upon words rather than sound disquisitions or useful illustrations. In the branch of Hebrew literature we find at present only "*A concise Grammar of the Hebrew Language;*" being an abstract from the larger works by J. J. VATER, professor at Jena, p. 174, 8vo. 1798. This epitome is purposely designed for those beginners who have not yet imbibed any prejudices from other grammars; many of the absolute parts of grammar are here simplified and explained,



explained, which have been either too diffusely treated, or altogether overlooked in the larger work, so that this short treatise cannot fail to be of great utility in facilitating the acquisition of the sacred language to the student and the amateur.

#### LOGIC AND METAPHYSICS.

To supply the schools of Germany with an elementary work which might combine completeness with brevity, and should at the same time be sold at a reasonable price, we meet with the following excellent publication, which unquestionably possesses all these requisites, entitled, "*Logic for the Use of Schools*," by J. G. C. KIESWETTER, doctor and professor of philosophy at Berlin, p. 156, 8vo. (price about 1s. 2d. in sheets). The learned author of this treatise has preserved here the same order and division which he has adopted in his '*Elements of pure, general Logic*,' published some time ago, while he has added the general practical part of logic; and we shall only say that he has laid down the rules of thinking throughout, in a clear and perspicuous manner, and that he has illustrated the whole with opposite and striking examples. The metaphysical works, from time to time appearing in Germany being very numerous, and most of them being of an abstruse and polemical nature, we are obliged to confine our account to a few of the most remarkable only. Of this description is the following work of ADAM WEISHAUP, on "*Truth and moral Perfection*," vol. i. p. xxviii. and 276. "*On the Doctrines of the Motives and Causes of all Things*," vol. ii. p. 392, and "*On Purposes or final Causes*," vol. iii. p. xlv. and 384, 8vo. The learned author is well known to be one of the most strenuous opponents of the critical system of philosophy, founded by the venerable KANT; and while the latter couches his doctrines in the most scientific and frequently obscure terms and phrases, Dr. WEISHAUP endeavours to render his doctrines plain and palatable to every class of readers, by the most alluring and popular forms and demonstrations he has adopted in all his writings. As this, however, is not the *forum* where metaphysical controversies can be either discussed or decided, we shall content ourselves with stating the tendency of WEISHAUP's extensive work, in nearly his own words: "The whole moral system of man," says he, "is founded on the idea of moral perfection, and without this idea we are liable every where to misapprehend our moral feelings: hence it has

been the chief object of my present exertions, to discover that golden middle path, to determine the true and most practical idea of moral perfection; to establish on this idea a physiology of the mind; to show in what its healthy state, perfection properly consists; how all virtues are founded on that state, and in the strictest sense constitute one virtue only; to enquire into the original error from which the branches and consequences of all other moral errors arise; to render this etymology plain and obvious to the senses; to sketch in this manner a pathology of the mind, and besides to point out from what shallow ground our present virtues arise; in what close a connection they stand with our vices; how among things of so dissimilar nature a connection is possible; and lastly, to examine the diseased parts of our mind, which either at present, or at some future period, and by what means, required to be remedied and cured."—Another violent opponent of the Kantian system, although of inferior abilities and defective erudition, is SOLOMON MAIMON, in his "*Critical Investigations of the Human mind; or the higher Powers of Knowledge and Volition*," p. 370, 8vo. The whole of this work consists of three long dialogues of the Prolegomena to the Critique of the pure and practical faculty of knowledge, and of a system of ethics according to Aristotle. We cannot, however, suppress the remark with respect to the last subject, that Mr. MAIMON has committed a gross plagiarism, by copying Mr. Tenisch's classical translation of Aristotle's work, from chapter to chapter, omitting what he could not understand, or what appeared to him of less consequence. "*The Contributions to the History of Philosophy*," by G. G. FULLEBORN; are continued with the same spirit of sound criticism and industrious perseverance. The eighth number now before us contains, besides a series of critical remarks on the poems of Parmenides, by KENRICK, only one essay by the learned editor, "*A Sketch of the History and Literature of Physiognomy*." "*Elementary view of the Metaphysics of Law, or positive Legislation; an Essay on the first Principles of the Law of Nature*," by G. S. A. MELLIN, &c. This is a remarkable work, not only on account of the new and acute ideas started in it, and the author's peculiar mode of reasoning, but also by several ingenious paradoxical assertions, which lead the mind from the usual mode of thinking, and agreeably employ it with new conceptions. The whole comprehends the principles and elementary



mentary ideas of all the parts of the law of nature, and is divided into five sections; the first of which treats of the principles of law in general; the second, of the principles of law in a state of nature, or of the absolute law of nature; the third, of the principles of law in a state of society, or of the hypothetical law of nature; the fourth, of the principles of the general law of states; and the fifth, of the principles of the law of nations.

#### MORAL PHILOSOPHY.

Among the numberless attempts to introduce the principles and tenets of KANT into the circles of familiar life, and to expound his abstruse notions by the clearest and most convincing illustrations, the following is one of the most successful: "*Popular Essays on subjects of Practical Philosophy*," with a view to promote a previous acquaintance with the ideas peculiar to Kant, by J. C. GREILING, p. 19. and 198. The frequent opportunities which the author had to observe that, particularly in mixed company, many persons who had the least knowledge of Kant and his philosophy, would speak of both in a decisive manner, induced him to publish these essays which he has designed chiefly for men of business who cannot devote the portion of time requisite to the study of his systematic works. The subjects of these treatises are as follow: 1. On the influence which family spirit displays on the morality and welfare of mankind. 2. The Golden Age. 3. On the weakness of character. 4. On the affinity between the æsthetical and moral sense. 5. On the value of an established religion; and 6. On the distinction subsisting between prudence and morality, as well as between the doctrine of prudence and that of duty. The style of the author is throughout polished, and adapted to philosophic subjects; it is correct without being ornamental, but nevertheless pleasant and lively. "*Essays on subjects of Morals and Education*," by K. G. BAUER, A.M. &c. p. xvi. and 366, well deserve the perusal of every tutor and guardian of a family. All the compositions of this respectable author are, like the present, distinguished by pure principles, by a constant application of philosophy to moral purposes, and by a distinct arrangement and deduction of his ideas. "*The Inquiries into the Progress of Nature in the development of the Human Race*," by the author of *Lienhard and Gertrud*, p. 234, 8vo. are an interesting publication not only on account of the original views of man and his relations in life, but like-

wise on account of the energetic and lively manner in which the author expresses his ideas. Another attempt to account for the final purposes, to which the author of nature seems to devote the human race, is the following small work, "*On the Destination of Man*," a philosophic inquiry upon the principles of critical philosophy, by J. LENZ, professor, p. 136, 8vo. The author of this perspicuous and popular essay announces himself here as an enlightened man who has much reflected on his destiny, and who endeavours to render his own convictions more general, for the improvement of mankind. "*A Sketch of a Philosophic Doctrine of Religion*," by G. C. MULLER, Part I. pp. xxiv. and 281, 8vo. This outline is not undeserving of a liberal share of approbation and encouragement; the idea of a philosophic religious doctrine is developed with much acuteness and discrimination; the possibility as well as the reality and advantage of such a doctrine, if it were universally adapted, is placed in the most obvious point of view. The author candidly examines the opinions of other philosophers, and censures them with great liberality; his mode of writing is clear and precise. "*Views of the Territories of History and Philosophy*," Part I. by G. F. D. GOESS, professor, &c. p. vi. and 153, 8vo. 1798. Under this whimsical title the learned author proposes to publish annually a small volume (in preference to a monthly or other periodical form) in which he impartially reviews and compares the historical events of the day with the precepts of a sound and strict philosophy, and by which he hopes to procure a more general and beneficial circulation to many important philosophic truths. As the subjects of these essays are rather curious, we shall insert here the heads and contents of those contained in this small volume: 1. On the influence which the Prussian government is likely to have on the German principalities in Franconia. 2. On the final purpose of man. 3. An attempt towards a deduction of the original rights of man; and 4. On the progress of the sciences in Germany. "*On Rights and Obligations in general, and those of Civil Society in particular*," pp. 303. 8vo. J. G. E. MAASS, professor of philosophy at Halle. This work is already favourably known to the student and professor of the law of nature. The excellent author is one of the few German writers, whose compositions are classically concise, without being aphoristical, and who justly values himself on his elegant and instructive



tive mode of writing on the most abstruse subjects. The present, although neither a compendium, nor a system of philosophic jurisprudence, consists of a connected series of essays, which comprehend almost the whole territory of this science, and which the ingenious student may easily reduce to a systematic form. We cannot upon this occasion omit to mention another work by Prof. MAASS, of which we possess the second edition, and which is considered by the German literati, as well as in foreign countries, wherever that language is read, as the most valuable and systematic "*Analysis of the Power and Influence of the Imagination.*" For want of room we cannot enter into a detailed account of this philosophic publication, which above all novels and ghost-stories amply deserved to be translated into the English language, if the readers of solid and useful productions were not so much inferior in numbers to those of absurd and marvellous romances.

#### MATHEMATICS.

The principal new publication, since our last retrospect, in this extensive field of literature, is "*The complete Elements of Geometry, according to le Gendre, Simpson, van Swinden, Gregorius à St. Vincentio,*" and the ancients, by L. W. GILBERT, professor, &c. at Halle, Part I. pp. 453, 8vo. with plates, 1798; or under another title, "*A complete System of Elementary and Higher Geometry.*" The meritorious author deserves the particular thanks of the tyro, as well as of every friend of geometry, for having furnished them with a compendium in which every useful piece of information relative to this difficult science is industriously collected, for having deduced from a few principal propositions many others as consequences, and thus in a remarkable degree facilitated the understanding and acquisition of the whole. Another new and interesting work, though confined to the arithmetical department, is T. L. JORDAN'S "*Description of several new Reckoning-Machines invented by himself,*" part I. Machines without rotatory motion or wheels, and without tables of calculation. With three tabular views, and four engraved figures, pp. 102. 8vo. 1798." The author shews himself in this publication a man of reflection and ingenuity; and we await with anxiety the second part of his book, in which he promises to describe some still more perfect machines; we cannot, however, refrain from observing, that he ought to be less sparing of his tables, and at the same time endeavour to render them as accurate and corresponding with

the text as the nature of the work will admit. "*Tables, showing the Contents of Casks, with an Explanation of their Use,*" being a work which was crowned with the prize given by the Royal Danish Society for the encouragement of the sciences, by S. BRUNN, with a plate, pp. xxxi. and 84. 8vo. Although these tables are chiefly calculated for the Danish measures, yet they may be easily reduced to any other standard. The author divides the whole into two principal sections, one treating of full casks, and the other of casks not filled: for the former, Mr. B. on 55 pages lays down 32 tables, which are arranged according to the length of the casks, beginning with 25 and extending to 56 inches; for the latter, he furnishes us with 23 tables of proportion, which are so calculated, that between the part of the bottom of the cask played upon by the wine, and the likewise wet part of an imaginary bottom through the bung-hole parallel with the real bottoms, there is a medium taken according to a certain rule, the space thus discovered is commuted into a circle of the same proportion; and then the cask, as far as it is filled with the liquor, is likewise reduced to a cylinder of a similar proportion. "*The Tables shewing the different Course of Exchange, together with Instructions and Explanations, how to make use of them,*" by A. CRAILSHEIM, 4to. 1798. All the calculations here relate to the mint-standard of 24 florins. The London course begins with 127 Frankfort Batzen, and extends to 156; every operation is carried on by decimal fractions, so that any of the tables may, with little trouble, be used for the exchange of Holland and Hamburg. The courses of Paris, Augsburg, and Vienna, are likewise calculated, and the whole is arranged according to the manner adopted by VEGA in his famous "*Logarithmical Tables,*" of which we have given a short account in our first Retrospect.

#### NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.

Instead of having to recapitulate a long list of works in this useful branch of science, we can insert two only, which deserve particular notice. "*Elements of Natural Philosophy, in its Mathematical and Chemical parts,*" by J. C. FISCHER, Doctor and Professor at Jena, pp. 820, 8vo. with three quarto plates. In this publication the author has endeavoured to compress all the late chemical discoveries, as well as to introduce the new metaphysical theory of Kant, which is now making hasty strides towards producing a thorough revolution in the doctrine of physics. With



With all its excellencies, we cannot recommend this book to beginners, as the author has committed many serious inaccuracies, while he has little or no merit in the most interesting section of the work, "The metaphysics of Nature," which is almost literally copied from Kant's own words, and which ought to have been rendered more easy to the tyro, by giving it a more popular form, and accompanying the many abstruse axioms and principles with proper illustrations. The next and more important article in this branch, is "*The Magazine of the latest discoveries and occurrences in Natural Philosophy*," including all the auxiliary sciences connected with physics, by J. H. VOIGT, No. I. with three plates, 8vo. pp. 182. Since the "*Magazine for the latest events in Physics and Natural History*" (which was first begun by the celebrated Professor Lichtenberg, of Göttingen, and afterwards continued by Professor Voigt) has been closed with the eleventh volume, the present is intended to supply its place. The editor does not admit long and detailed essays, that the numbers of this periodical work, the annual amount of which is not determined, may not too rapidly increase. Hence he has reduced it to the more useful form of a repertory, which is divided into three principal sections; the first contains accounts of new objects of natural philosophy; the second, accounts of new or improved physical instruments, or apparatus; and the third, a short review of the latest state of physical literature. As a proof of the great variety prevailing in this entertaining Magazine, we find not less than 27 articles under the first head. Upon the whole, it justly vies with "*Gren's Physical Journal*," which is universally admitted to be the most complete and scientific work of the kind in Europe; inasmuch as it more largely enters into the nature of subjects, and gives a more precise account of the phenomena of nature than could be done with propriety in Mr. Voigt's new Magazine.

#### ECONOMY.

It is much easier to propose a new theory of agriculture, and to extol this principal source of wealth and happiness in every nation with extravagant praises, than to point out the general and most hurtful defects here prevailing and to offer the most proper and practical means for removing and remedying such impediments. With this salutary intention, and with a view to avoid the errors into which others have fallen, the author of the following treatise has amply satisfied

our expectations: "*On Agriculture as the principal Source of Wealth and Happiness of Nations*," by W. KRAUS, pp. 236, 8vo. In this elaborate essay, Mr. K. censures the many defects in agriculture with great candour and modesty; every where we discover mature manly reflection, and his true interest for the good of mankind has given a degree of strength and energy to his language which cannot fail to make a favourable impression on cultivators of land, and thus contribute to realize the noble design of the author. Of the "*Economical Contributions towards the Improvement of Agriculture in Lower Saxony*;" by J. D. Denso, we have seen the second number, which is replete with judicious and practical remarks on fourteen different subjects, chiefly founded on the author's own observations and experience: those on different methods of converting heaths and commons into arable land, are by far the most valuable "*The Economical Journal for Town and Country*," formerly edited by Professor LEONHARDI, of Leipzig, is now continued, from the 9th volume, by a Mr. HOFFMANN, of the same place; and we are happy to say, that it is conducted with a due share of attention and discrimination by the new editor. To prevent the dreadful devastations of forests occasioned by noxious insects, and particularly the caterpillar, a learned and noble planter of woods has lately begun a periodical publication, under the singular title, "*The Anxious Forester*," by J. C. BARON V. LINKER, of which we have three numbers before us. The essays here contained are of the utmost importance to the planter of woods, especially in the present times, when the scarcity of wood becomes an object of general complaint in almost every country. "*The Annals of Gardening, together with a General Intelligencer for Gardeners and Florists*," by NEUENHAIN, junior, No. V. and VI. concluding the first volume with an Index. Among the numerous journals of this nature published in Germany, this may be safely pronounced the most interesting and useful to the practical gardener; and we sincerely wish the editor may continue his laudable exertions in this agreeable branch of economy. Another work on the same subject, equally praiseworthy, but of a more generally useful tendency, is the following: "*On the Plantation of an artificial Orchard, and the Vegetation of Plants*," by Dr. A. F. A. DIEL, with three plates, and a catalogue of fruits, pp. 492, 8vo. 1798. This book is written with much theoretical and practical knowledge, and



the seventh chapter in particular, which treats of the laws and sources of vegetation, does infinite credit to the attentive and learned author, who has furnished his countrymen with the *first classical* production on this alluring and profitable subject.

#### ARTS AND MANUFACTURES.

We have been agreeably surprised with the appearance of a work which, at the present period so unfavourable to the Muses, not only confers great honour on the editor, but which likewise will be a lasting monument of the national taste and public spirit of the Germans. We allude to the "*Representations and historical Descriptions of the Taste of the principal Nations*," by J. F. BARON AT RACKNITZ. Of this admirable publication the third number has just appeared at Leipzig; and as each number contains about 12 vignettes and plates printed together with the letter-press, and a portfolio, in which there are six coloured plates representing ornamented walls, and six other plates exhibiting articles of household furniture, in royal folio, besides the text, from 100 to 150 pages, quarto, the price of each number is **EIGHT GUINEAS!!** Notwithstanding this extravagant price, the noble editor has, however, brought this extraordinary work very near its termination, as the fourth number will conclude the whole. In the first he has given an animated representation and description of the *Arabesque taste*; in the second, we find a delineation of the *Greek, Old German, New Persian, English, the French grotesque*, and the taste of the inhabitants of *Otaheite*; in the third number we again meet with the *Greek taste*, in the times when it began to degenerate; also with the taste of the *Moors, the Turks, the ancient French*, the inhabitants of *Kamtschatka*, and those of *Mexico*. The fourth and last number will probably furnish us with specimens of taste from *China, Spain*, and other countries not yet described. It must, without hesitation, be allowed that the engravings, as well as the mode of colouring them, are infinitely superior to every thing hitherto produced by German artists. "*The Collection of useful Essays, and Accounts relative to Architecture*," published by several members of the Royal Prussian Supreme Department in Affairs of Architecture, vol. i. 1798, with plates, deserves honourable mention in our Retrospect, as it contains no other than practical and highly useful information, particularly to the beginner in the study of this elegant art, for whom it is chiefly

and avowedly designed. "*The Technological Orbis pictus*," by P. H. C. BRODHAGEN, of Hamburg, is a periodical work in quarto numbers; the first and second of which, besides a very elaborate and appropriate introduction, contain accurate descriptions of a paper-manufactory, and of the process of refining sugars, which are illustrated with six plates. In similar numbers the ingenious author proposes to give a popular and satisfactory account of every trade and manufactory carried on in Europe. Another work of a similar, though more of an elementary nature, is the "*Systematic View of Manufactories*," (and the materials of which they make use) by J. F. A. GÖTTLING, Professor at Jena, pp. 45, 8vo. This is only the outline of a plan, according to which the learned professor, who is well known in this country by his excellent chemical tests, intends to publish a complete "*Manual of Technology*," if the present sketch should meet with the approbation of the public. We are fully convinced Mr. G. is perfectly qualified for this arduous task, and that his promised compendium will be gratefully received, not only in Germany, but in other countries of Europe, where a systematic and elementary work of this kind is much wanting. "*The New Painter's Lexicon*," for obtaining a more accurate knowledge of good old and new pictures, by L. v. Winkelman, &c. is offered to the public, in a second edition, as the most complete artists' dictionary; but justice obliges us to say that, though it may contain some of the more modern pictures not to be found in similar works, yet it is vastly inferior to "*FUSSELLI's Lexicon of Artists*," in the number of articles, as well as in point of sound criticism, correct information, and good arrangement.

#### COMMERCE.

It is a species of pleasure to a disappointed reviewer, when, after having bestowed much time on a variety of worthless or at least indifferent publications, he meets with one possessing truly classical merit, and of which he is enabled to give a favourable account. Such is the case with the work intitled, "*Supplementary Information to the Theoretico-practical View of Commerce in its various Branches*," by J. G. BUSCH, (Professor at Hamburg) vol. i. pp. xiv. and 296. This volume will be accompanied by another which will complete the work: we here meet with a new specimen of the venerable author's profound knowledge of trade in all its ramifications, the uncommon attention he has bestowed for a long

long series of years on all commercial subjects, and the inimitable frankness with which he carries his point in reasoning on matters of the first importance to the state and the individual citizen. "*The Commercial Academy*;" being a manual calculated for the use of young tradesmen of every description; by C. C. ILLING, in two small volumes 8vo. As this is a mere compilation from other works on this diversified subject, and as the author, though generally accurate, has sometimes committed errors, even in spelling technical words—a circumstance not a little derogatory from an elementary book—we cannot speak in very commendatory terms of his labours: yet, upon the whole, it is one of those publications which, if placed in proper hands, may be read and used with advantage.

## DIVINITY.

With respect to the present state of theology in Germany, we have already delivered our opinion in the former Retrospect; and we have now only to add, that from the nature of the subsequent works, the reader will be still more fully satisfied with the sentiments we have before expressed. "*The Critique of the Christian Revelation, or the only possible Point of View in which Revelation can be considered*," pp. xvi. and 458. 8vo. 1798, is a new, ingenious, and bold attempt to prove, "that there is a pure original idea of revelation in the human mind; that there is a pure original claim of man to the existence of a revelation; and that there is a pure original belief of revelation which precedes that claim: thus the author endeavours to justify *à priori* the belief in mysteries and miracles. His arguments, however, are more specious than convincing. "*Commentarius criticus in textum Græcum Novi Testamenti. Particula I.*" pp. 168. 8vo. 1798, auctore I. I. GRIESBACH, is a valuable commentary on the first twenty chapters of the gospel of Matthew. It is written in elegant language, and well deserves to be read by the student in divinity who wishes to acquire a more correct knowledge of what are called the sacred writings. "*The Christian Professor of Religion, in his moral Existence and Actions*;" a book of instruction for the moral destination of a christian teacher in churches and schools, relative to his private life as well as his official duties, by F. H. C. SCHWARZ, vol. i, pp. xxxii. and 350. 8vo. 1798. The title is sufficiently expressive of the design of this work; and

we shall only remark, that it well deserves a careful perusal of the divines of this country, particularly by those *sincere* gentlemen who, altogether against the intention of their humble Master, consume the fruits of the land, without lending any assistance to cultivate the vineyard of the Lord. "*Instructions, together with Questions directed to Children*;" adapted to the whole year, by J. LAUBER, D. D. &c. vol. i. pp. 450. vol. ii. pp. 580. 8vo. This is another specimen of the accommodating spirit of the times, to facilitate or rather prevent the trouble of reflecting, when young preachers, for want of talent or erudition, are unable to compose their own sermons. In short, this species of traffic deserves severe animadversion; although the Germans have not yet arrived at that degree of refinement in the sale and circulation of sermons, which is now pretty common in this country, to hawk about what are called *manuscript sermons*; that is, discourses printed with writing-types, and stitched up in blue paper, at 1s. per piece, or 10s. 6d. per dozen!!! The last article we shall mention in the list of sermons, is rather a phenomenon upon the ecclesiastical horizon, and as such is intitled to particular notice: "*Sermons delivered on some Sundays and Holidays of the Year, chiefly on the Text of the corresponding Gospels*," by a Roman Catholic Curate, 8vo. pp. 148. These discourses may with justice be called 'contributions towards religious improvement,' (illumination) as the author expresses himself in the title-page; for they abound with excellent remarks: the exegesis contained in them is generally correct; and the author every where proves himself an enlightened, convincing, and popular orator. Before we conclude this department, we think it our duty to announce a very successful translation of "*The Book of Job*" into German rhyme, by S. C. PAFÉ, and accompanied with a preface by the Aulic Counsellor EICHORN, pp. xxii. and 114. 8vo. This is the first attempt ever made to translate Hebrew poetry into German verse; and, considering the difficulties connected with so arduous an undertaking, the present version has far exceeded our expectations, and may, with very few exceptions relative to the harmony and structure of the verses, be ranked among the classical productions of the German muses.

## JURISPRUDENCE.

As the laws of treason are hitherto rather indefinite, many questions have been



been started on this subject by various eminent lawyers in Germany; and we meet particularly with two essays, which, on account of the philosophic and perspicuous mode of reasoning displayed in them, deserve to be attentively read by every political observer. The first is "*A Philosophico-juridical Inquiry into the Nature of the Crime called High-Treason*," by Dr. P. J. A. FEUERBACH, 8vo. pp. 86. 1798. And the other treatise on the same subject is inserted in the "*Magazine (Archiv) for Criminal Law*," edited by Dr. J. F. KLEIN, and G. A. KLEINSCHROD, Aulic Counsellor and Professor of Law at Würzburg, who is likewise the author of this valuable treatise. Both writers agree, that to betray the country is high-treason; "*but the mere resistance of subjects, although it should be accompanied with acts of violence, cannot be called high-treason*." (If this be not acknowledged as a sufficient specimen of the liberty of the press in Germany, we hesitate to make any further comparison with our own). In the branch of Criminal Jurisprudence we find the Germans more busily employed than in any other: to confirm this assertion, we shall make the reader acquainted with the three following works, each of which has its peculiar merit. "*Principia juris criminalis Germaniæ communis*," auctore G. J. F. MEISTER, Consil. reg. aul. Jur. Doct. and Prof. "*Editio tertia multum emendata*," pp. 436. 8vo. 1798: together with the Criminal Code of Charles V. (in German) pp. 136. 8vo. "*Essays relative to Criminal Law and Criminal Proceedings*," by G. A. KLEINSCHROD, &c. vol. i. pp. 344. 8vo.; and "*Contributions towards improving the Criminal Law*," by F. E. C. MEREAU, pp. 292. 8vo. with a table. In other departments of Jurisprudence the Germans are not less assiduously employed, which will be evident from the list of the following excellent works we have purposely selected; viz. "*Outlines of Jurisprudence, or what is properly called the Law of Nature*," by H. STEPHANI, pp. 144. 8vo. "*Outlines of the Law of Society*," Part II. by the same author. pp. 88. 8vo. "*Remarks on Kant's metaphysical Elements of Jurisprudence*," pp. 125. 8vo. by the same author. "*The Law of Nature developed from the Idea of Right*," by J. C. HOFFBAUER, Doctor and Prof. of Phil. of Halle; second edition, enlarged and improved, pp. 379. 8vo. 1798. "*Inquiries into the most important Subjects relative to the Law of*

*Nature*," by the same author, pp. 348. 8vo. "*The General Law of States*," Part I. together with occasional remarks on Kant's metaphysical Elements of Jurisprudence, particularly his private Law, tending to illustrate and investigate these subjects, by the same author, pp. 318. 8vo. "*The pure Law of Nature*," by T. SCHMALZ, Dr. and Prof. of Law at Koenigsberg; second edition enlarged, pp. 114. 8vo. "*The natural Law of States*," pp. 132. 8vo. by the same author. "*The natural Law of Families*," pp. 30. 8vo. by the same author. "*The Natural Ecclesiastical Law*," pp. 56. 8vo. by the same author. Mr. SCHMALZ is one of the principal and latest labourers in this useful branch of science: the plain and perspicuous mode of writing which characterises all his productions; the manifold new views he affords to the student of law, and the original remarks interspersed throughout his writings, have deservedly established his character as one of the classical law-writers of Germany. "*The Principles of the Prussian Law of Towns and Citizens*," by R. F. TERLINDEN, pp. 239. 8vo. is a well-arranged compilation of whatever relates to the interests of the town and the citizen in the Prussian dominions. "*On the Influence of the Stoic Sect of Philosophers on the Jurisprudence of Rome*:" a philosophico-juridical treatise, by J. A. ORTLOFF, pp. 120. 8vo. In this valuable dissertation the author displays much learning and critical sagacity: in the result of his inquiry we cannot, however, agree with him, that the influence of the Stoics on the legislation of Rome has been so considerable as was formerly, though erroneously believed.

#### MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

Among the popular works, which on account of their superior manner of treating medical subjects, have been lately translated into the English language, we meet with a second edition, much enlarged, of "*Dr. C. W. HUFELAND'S Art of prolonging Human Life*;" Part I. pp. 336, Part II. pp. 448, and xxx. 8vo. with a beautiful plate, 1798. The most important improvements made in this new edition are contained in the second or practical part of the work. To the means of shortening life, in the section entitled, "*Intemperance in Eating and Drinking*," Mr. HUFELAND has judiciously added the use of *spirituous liquors*, which are a liquid fire to the body, and in so dreadful a manner blunt the physical and moral sense of man, that at length they reduce him to the level



level with insensible brutes: "A state," says the learned author, "in which the vice of intoxication becomes general, must necessarily approach to its ruin; for industry, virtue, humanity, temperance, and moral feelings, qualities without which no state can subsist, are thus completely banished. History informs us, that the period of introducing spirituous liquors among barbarous nations, was likewise the time from which their lives began to be shortened, and their vigorous bodily constitution reduced, so that this fascinating present had a greater effect in subduing them to the Europeans, than even gunpowder and cannon." Who can for a moment hesitate to subscribe this just and pertinent remark? "*The Medico Practical Manual, founded on Brunonian principles and experience*," by Dr. M. A. WEIKARD, &c. in three parts, together upwards of 1000 pages, second edition, much enlarged, 1798, is one of those eccentric productions which either a violent spirit of innovation, or other motives of disappointment now and then are apt to generate in different climates. And as our medical readers are well acquainted with the merits and demerits of Brown's singular tenets in medicine, we think it superfluous here to enlarge upon the subject. "*The Treatise on the Venereal Disease*," by Dr. C. GIRTANNIR, &c. third edition, thoroughly improved and much enlarged, vol. i. pp. xvi. and 407, is a work which on account of the erudition it contains, the excellent and polished style in which it is written, and the correct and beautiful letter-press, does infinite credit to its author. We must only add, that the other two volumes, which contain a critical retrospect of all the ancient and modern writers on this disease, have not been reprinted, but annexed from a former edition to supply the present. "*The Journal for the Interests of Surgery, Midwifery, and Medical Jurisprudence*," by J. C. LODER, is a new periodical work of which nearly two volumes are now published; it is well supported with the most interesting intelligence, by the most eminent surgeons of Germany, whom Mr. BENJ. BELL, of Edinburgh, has liberally joined, and is without exception the most useful repository of the kind on the Continent. Another work of a similar nature, and equal merit in the branches it professes, is, "*The New Magazine (Archiv), for improving Midwifery, and the Treatment of Diseases of Women and Children, with constant reference to Physiology, Dietetics and Surgery*,"

vol. i. 1798, with plates, by J. C. STARCK, doctor and professor of medicine, at Jena. The learned editor formerly published, "*The Archiv for Midwifery*," begun in 1787, and concluded with the sixth volume, but being encouraged by several French, German, and Italian practitioners in midwifery, he was prevailed upon to commence a new series of a more extensive work which is by no means inferior to the former, either in point of variety, or truly practical information, "*J. ARNE-MANN'S, Dr. and Prof. of Med. at Göttingen, Practical Materia Medica*," third edition improved and enlarged, pp. 590, 8vo. 1798. Upon comparing this with the third edition, which appeared in 1795, we do not find any material improvements, although the author might have rectified many little inaccuracies which disgrace his excellent work, particularly in the chemical part of it, where his ideas do not appear to be altogether correct. Of new medical remedies we could discover only two, which he has here added, viz. the *Carex arenaria* and the *Calx antimonii sulphurata*, "C. S. ANDERSCH, *Tractatus anatomica physiologica de nervis humani corporis aliquibus, quam edidit E. P. ANDERSCH, Pars altera*. 8vo. pp. 187. In this classical treatise, the author with great accuracy describes particularly those nerves which move the muscles of the left side of the heart, and minutely points out the different nervous threads, as they proceed from different trunks on the neck, while he pursues their course and ramification with a masterly hand. Besides these, he treats of various other nerves, the origin and uses of which are still problematical. "*The Doctrine of Medical Remedies, or Materia Medica of the Mineral Kingdom, comprehending the crude, prepared, and compound Medicines*," by J. C. TODE, doctor and professor of medicine at Copenhagen, Part. I. 8vo. pp. 431. The learned and experienced author of this work has communicated to us here whatever is valuable and interesting in this essential branch of medicine, while he has accompanied every article with his own original remarks, cautions and observations: we sincerely wish a speedy continuation of this useful book. Of "C. W. HUFELAND'S "*Journal for improving the Practice of Medicine and Surgery*," we have seen the last number of the sixth volume. The Germans have reason to be proud of a periodical work, which is not only supported by the principal physicians and surgeons of that extensive country, but which likewise furnishes the medical



medical reader with every piece of useful intelligence, as far as the practice of medicine is concerned, from whatever quarter of Europe it may be derived. Of the "*Miscellaneous Chirurgico-practical Cautions, for beginning Practitioners in Surgery*," by J. C. JAGER, of Frankfort, the fifth volume has lately appeared, and contains, like its predecessors, many excellent practical hints and remarks. "*The System of Diet for Young People, particularly the Studious*," by an anonymous author, is one of those mercantile or manufacturing speculations, which have a direct tendency to increase the price of paper and printing materials, but not to enlighten the head of the reader.

We conclude this department with an account of an essay which deserves some notice, as it is written on a subject which of late years has been unaccountably neglected: "*What Advantages has the modern Practice of Medicine derived from the Exertions of some Naturalists and Physicians, for Half a Century past, with respect to the proper application of Electricity in Diseases?*" by P. MAXIMUS IMHOF, professor at Munchen, pp. 79, 4to. The ingenious author furnishes us here with a concise and satisfactory history of the progress of electricity in different countries; he begins with the year 1742, when electricity was first used as a medical remedy, and spherical glasses were substituted for cylinders. Among the principal promoters of this study, he mentions the names of GORDON, KRUGER, KRATZENSTEIN, QUELMALZ, NOLLET, JALLABERT, SAUVAGES, SCHAFFER, DOPPELMAYR, RICHMANN, DE HAEN, LINNÆUS, ZETZELL, DE LA FOND, FRANKLIN, LOUVET, WESLEY, CAVALLO, BERTHOLON, &c.

#### MISCELLANIES.

As the number of books on miscellaneous subjects is comparatively greater than in any determined branch of science, and as our retrospect has already been extended to a considerable length, we find ourselves under the necessity of abridging the account even of the best books hereafter to be mentioned, and of excluding all such as are of inferior merit.—"*Moral Pictures*," by A. HENNINGS, vol. i. 8vo. pp. 321. 1798, is a well written collection of Essays, in which the spirit of humanity, wisdom of life, and a noble simplicity throughout prevail.—"*The New Contributions towards improving the knowledge of mankind in general, and the practical knowledge of the mind in particular*;" by C. F. POCKELS, pp. xxviii. and 212,

8vo. 1798, contain some good and entertaining stories, although we rather doubt whether the science of '*Psychology*' will derive any real advantage from such promiscuous and ill-digested collections.—"*Short Essays on different Subjects*," by E. F. KLEIN, pp. 332, 8vo. Virtue, justice, and civic prosperity are the chief objects of these concise and elegant treatises.—"*The Critique of Humanity*," 8vo. pp. 254, by an anonymous author, is a singular production which aims at determining the degree of mental cultivation and urbanity among different nations. The idea is originally a good one, but we are sorry to say that the execution of it falls short of the most moderate expectations.—"*The Elementary Code of Law for all Men*;" by C. SOMMERS, 8vo. pp. 96. 1798, is a species of a moral catechism, in which the principal doctrines relative to the destination, the different duties, as well as to the liberty, and equality of man, are laid down in a popular and instructive manner.—The "*Secret Memoirs from the Lives of some of the most notorious Usurers, Money-lenders, Procurers, Bankrupts, Swindlers, and Seducers of Youth in the present Times*," pp. 82, 8vo. 1798. Although the utility of exposing vice to public detestation cannot be doubted, yet works of this kind, if not critically and cautiously executed, with regard to their moral tendency, ought rather to be suppressed than propagated; as otherwise they will be read with the same avidity and attended with similar consequences, as our '*Session Papers*' or '*Newgate-Kalendars*', which certainly do more harm than good among the lower classes of readers.—The "*Contributions towards the Improvement of Mankind, collected from the Institute of Education near Copenhagen*;" by C. J. R. CHRISTIANI, &c. of which two volumes 8vo. are now completed, well deserve the serious perusal of every enlightened mind, particularly those who are anxious to acquire a more accurate information respecting the laws, manners, and customs of Denmark.—The "*Magazine for Philology and Education* (or '*The Humanistic Magazine*') edited by F. A. WIEDEBURG, of which six volumes are now published, is carried on with the same degree of strict selection and classical erudition, which characterises every number of this interesting publication.—The "*Complete Extract from Funke's Natural History and Technology*," calculated for the use of those amateurs who cannot afford to purchase the larger work, and for the use of teachers

teachers in the inferior town and country-schools, pp. 958, 8vo. is one of the most useful and correct guides in that branch of science; and we seriously recommend a speedy translation of this much-esteemed school-book into the English language.

*For the Monthly Magazine.*

#### ON THE LEGATION OF MOSES.

Mosheim in his Ecclesiastical History (vol. ii. p. 160.) informs us that Johannes Islebius Agricola, about the year 1538, took occasion to declaim against *the law*, maintaining that it was neither fit to be proposed to the people as a rule of manners, nor to be used in the church as a mean of instruction; but that *the gospel* alone was to be inculcated and explained, both in the churches and in the schools of learning. The followers of Agricola, he adds, were called Antimonians, i. e. enemies of the law. As several phenomena of British literature seem to forbode an extension of this sect, it may be interesting to such as cultivate theology to know in what manner those persons have attempted to account for the rise of the Jewish religion, who deny its claim to a miraculous origin. Unsatisfactory as the hypothesis contained in the following pages may appear, it derives claim to attention from the celebrity of its great author, F. SCHILLER, professor of history in the university of Jena, and the most impressive of the German tragedians. Use has avowedly been made in it of a dissertation by B. Decius, "*Ueber die ältesten Hebräischen Mythen*."

THE foundation of the Jewish state by Moses is one of the most remarkable events on record: important by the strength of mind displayed in the achievement, still more important by its yet-enduring consequences to society. Two religions, which prevail over the greater part of the inhabited earth, Christianity and Islamism, lean upon the religion of the Jews: without it neither could have been what they are.

In a certain sense may be ascribed to the Mosaic institutions much of the information in which we now rejoice: by their means an important truth, which reason left to itself, would very slowly have evolved, the doctrine of the unity of God, which was impressed on the people and preserved among them as an object of blind faith, until it could be matured in the heads of the wiser to a rational idea. Thus a great part of the human race escaped the errors of polytheism, and the Hebrew constitution obtained this exclusive advantage that the religion of the wise and of the vulgar were not in direct

opposition, as was the case among the heathens.

Viewed from this station, the Hebrews cannot but appear a people important in history, worthy to be rescued by the true philosopher from the contempt with which witlings, and from the disguising reverence with which superstitionists have regarded them.

The Hebrews formed, as is well known, a single nomade family of no more than seventy persons on their arrival in Egypt, where they became a people. During a period of about 400 years which they passed in this country, they multiplied nearly to 2,000,000, and could muster 600,000 fighting men on their expulsion. During this long sojourn, they lived separated from the Egyptians, not by dwelling-place merely, but by their nomade manners, which rendered them objects of aversion to the native inhabitants, and excluded them from civil rights. Their internal government was carried on after the manner of pastoral nations; a family obeyed the father; a tribe the hereditary tribe-prince: and thus they formed a state within the state, which at length by its enormous increase excited the jealousy of the Egyptian kings.

A peculiar population in the heart of the kingdom, idle from its nomade way of life, hanging to each other, but having no common interest with the state, might well become dangerous in case of foreign invasion, or become inclined to seize for sinister purposes any opportunity of temporary internal weakness of which it was spectator. Policy therefore required that it should be observed, be occupied, and if possible be reduced in number. Hard labours were with this view assigned to the Hebrews: and, the secret of their possible utility once discovered, interest failed not to contrive new tasks. By degrees they were reduced from free workmen to vassals, from vassals to slaves: and overseers were appointed to belabour and to misuse them. This barbarous treatment still did not prevent their increase. A sound policy therefore would have been intent on incorporating them into the national system, by distributing them among the other inhabitants, and conceding to them equal rights. This the public prejudices resisted; for the Egyptians held them in abomination, and their abhorrence derived new force from the inconvenient consequences it inflicted. When the king of the Egyptians ceded to the family of Jacob the land of Goshen, on the east-side of the lower Nile, he little

reckoned



reckoned on a posterity of two millions. The province, therefore, was not very extensive, and the gift was generous enough if he looked forward only to a hundredth part of this multiplication. Now as the dwelling-place of the Hebrews could not coexpand with their numbers, each generation would be more and more compressed, until their health came to be injured by the accumulation. A natural consequence was, great uncleanness and contagious distempers: and thus was sown the seed of a disease which down to our own times has been almost peculiar to this nation, and which appears then to have raged with baleful fury. The most disgusting plague of those climates, the leprosy, broke out among them, and generated an hereditary predisposition. The universality of this foul disease may be estimated by the numerous prescriptions and precautions of their law-giver, and by the concurring testimony of Diodorus, of Sicily, of Tacitus, of Lyfimachus, of Strabo, and of others, who seem to know the Jewish nation chiefly by this endemical malady; so strong was the impression it had left on the minds of the Egyptians. This misfortune became a new pretence for oppression. Men, who at first were despised as shepherds, and neglected as strangers, were at length shunned as contagious and abominable. To the fear and ill-will with which they had always been surveyed in Egypt, was now superadded disgust and repulsive scorn. Toward men, whom the anger of the gods had so offensively branded, every breach of kindness was thought allowable, and they were deprived, without scruple, of the most sacred rights of humanity. No wonder that barbarity toward them augmented, as its consequences became more apparent, and that they were punished by their oppressors for the very result of their ill-usage.

The ignorant policy of the Egyptians knew no remedy for one fault, but to commit a greater. Finding that all this oppression did not keep under the progress of population, they hit upon the no less inhuman, than miserable expedient, of ordering the male children to be destroyed by the midwives. But thanks to the better part of human nature, despots are not always obeyed when they command inhumanities. The midwives of Egypt heeded not this unnatural command; and the government could only effect its unjust ends by violent means. Commissioned murderers visited, by royal order, the dwellings of the Hebrews, and slew in

the cradle all the males.\* In this way the Egyptian government must finally have attained its end: and, had no saviour started up, must, in a few generations, have extinguished the Jewish people.

Whence was this deliverer to proceed? Improbably from among the Egyptians: how should one of these take part with a strange nation, whose language he was unfit to comprehend, and unlikely to study, and whom he was taught to consider as no less incapable than unworthy of a better condition. Improbably from among themselves: for the yoke of the Egyptians had degraded the Hebrews into the rudest and worst of nations, wildered by three hundred years of neglect, cowed by as long a servitude, irritated by abuse, degraded in their own eyes by a nauseous hereditary infamy, enervated and crippled to every heroic resolution, and, by a long continued torpor, almost degenerated to brutality. From a race so abandoned, how should one free spirit, one informed mind, a single hero, or a single statesman, originate? Where could the man be found amid them, able to inspire with confidence so submissive a horde, and to teach so ignorant and rude a band the means of effectual resistance to its refined and instructed oppressors. As little could such a man be looked for among the Hebrews of those days, as a brave heroic spirit among the outcast Pariahs of the Hindoos now.

But the mighty hand of Providence, which knows how to unravel the most complex knot by the simplest means—not of that providence, which, by the violent weapon of miracles, interrupts the economy of nature, but of that providence which has prescribed to nature an economy that effects by an orderly process extraordinary things—was to interfere and to save; was to select a Hebrew, that he might obtain the confidence of his countrymen; and to educate him among Egyptians, that he might acquire the courage and the wisdom essential to his success.

A Hebrew mother, of the tribe of Levi, had for three months concealed her infant from the murderers: at length, in despair of finding a further asylum, her inventive tenderness suggested a contrivance. In a box, or boat of papyrus, secured by pitch from the penetration of

\* A parallel fact occurs in the history of the Charaibs. See a pamphlet, entitled "*An Account of the Black Charaibs in the Island of St. Vincent's.*" Sewall, 1795. London.

the waters, she exposed her child in the place where the daughter of Pharaoh was wont to bathe. The child's sister had orders to conceal this ark amid the sarrushes, near which the royal maid was to pass; and to lie in wait hard by, watching the event. The daughter of Pharaoh soon perceived the infant, and as the boy pleased her, she resolved to save him. The sister now ventured to approach, and offered to fetch a Hebrew nurse, which was assented to. The mother thus obtained her child a second time, and might, without danger, publicly endeavour to rear him. In this condition he learned the language of his own people, and became acquainted with their manners, while the lips of his mother, no doubt, impressed on his tender soul an affecting image of their universal misery. When he had attained the age to need no longer a mother's care, he was resigned to the princess, and to her was abandoned his future fortunes. The daughter of Pharaoh adopted him, and gave him the name *MOSES*. And thus this lad of servile birth became partaker of the same advantages of education as the children of Egyptian kings. The priests, to whose cast he belonged from the moment of his adoption into the royal family, now undertook his education, and instructed him in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, which was the exclusive patrimony of their order. It is even probable that they concealed from him none of their secrets, since a passage of the Egyptian historian, Manetho, in which he calls Moses an apostate from the Egyptian religion, and a fugitive priest from Heliopolis, gives room to suspect that he was intended for the priestly office.

In order to understand what Moses may have acquired in this school, and what influence his education probably had on his legislation, a closer examination will be necessary of what ancient writers have preserved concerning the institutions and doctrines of the Egyptians. The historian Philo says: "Moses had been initiated by the Egyptian priests into the philosophy of symbols and hieroglyphs, as well as into the ritual of the holy animals." Others confirm this opinion: and, if a survey be taken of what are called Egyptian mysteries, they will be found very analogous with what Moses did and commanded.

II. The religion of ancient nations had, as is well known, very early assumed the form of a superstitious polytheism; and, even in those families which the Hebrew

writings describe as worshipping the true God, the ideas of the supreme Being were neither pure nor noble, and far from being founded on clear and rational insight. But, as soon as the better constitution of civil society, and the separation of ranks had delivered over the care of divine things to a peculiar order at leisure to observe the phenomena of nature, some progress was made by reason toward a loftier idea of the first cause. The universal connection of all things could not but point to a unity of author: and to whom was this idea so likely first to occur as to a priest? As Egypt seems to be the first cultivated country known to history, and as the more ancient mysteries appear to have originated thence, it is not improbable that the idea of the divine unity should there first have presented itself to a human brain. The fortunate inventor of this soul-exalting conception, will have endeavoured to find about him persons to whom he might intrust the holy treasure, and who were capable of handing it down (who knows through how many generations?) until at length it became the property of a little society capable of comprehending and of evolving it further.

But as a certain mass of knowledge and culture of intellect is requisite to conceive and to apply the idea of one universal God, and as this notion could not but lead to a contempt for polytheism, which was, however, the established religion, it was soon perceived or imagined that it would be imprudent and dangerous to spread abroad this opinion indiscriminately. Without first overthrowing the established divinities, by exposing them in their ridiculous nakedness, no introduction could be hoped for this new doctrine: yet it was impossible to expect that every one to whom the old superstition might have been rendered contemptible, should be able to elevate his mind to the pure, but difficult idea of the truth. Besides, the civil constitution was supported by that superstition: if this fell, the pillars of social order were liable to break down; and it was doubtful, if the new religion would be able to furnish an adequate prop.

And had the attempt not succeeded to abolish the old gods, a blind fanaticism would have been armed against the innovators, who would have fallen victims to the made fury of the vulgar. It was, therefore, preferred to make the new and dangerous truth the exclusive property of a small and secret society, of those who had displayed sufficient comprehension of mind



mind to merit reception into a secret band, where the pure doctrine might be preserved in mysterious withdrawal, from the eyes of the profane, and only dealt out to those who were observed to be capable of bearing its lustre.

For this purpose, hieroglyphs were resorted to, which concealed, under sensible symbols, the abstract doctrine, and were interpreted by agreed rules. As these enlightened men were aware, from their experience of the ancient worship, of the influence of the senses and of the imagination on young ductile minds, they made no scruple of calling in the assistance of artifice and ceremonial to the advantage of truth. They produced the new ideas to the mind with an impressive solemnity of parade, and, by rites adapted to their purpose, excited in the minds of their pupils an impassioned state of soul favourable to the association of the new creed, with impressions striking to the senses. Of this nature were the purifications which the assistant underwent previous to initiation, the washing, the sprinkling, the inwrapment in surplices of linen, the preparatory abstinence from sensual indulgence, the significant silence calculated to stimulate curiosity, the exaltation of the spirits by song, the interchange of dark and light, and the other ritual solemnities.

These ceremonies, connected with secret symbols and hieroglyphs, which described the concealed doctrines, were collectively designated by the appellation of the Mysteries. Their chief seat was the temple of Isis and Serapis. They were the model whence afterwards the mysteries of Samothrace and Eleusis, and in later times, the orders of free-masonry have been shapen. It seems indubitable, that the substance of the oldest mysteries in Heliopolis and Memphis, during their incorrupt period, consisted in announcing the unity of God, in unmasking the popular heathenism, and in revealing the immortality of the soul. Those who became partakers of these important discoveries, who obtained the *insight* of these revelations, called themselves Epopts, *Seers*, or the Initiated. But this initiation was never bestowed fully at once, because it was proper gradually to purge the mind of many errors by preparatory steps, before it could bear the full blaze of truth. For this reason, grades of initiation were contrived; and a complete apocalypse was only made to those who had attained the intuition of the inner sanctuary.

The Epopts acknowledged a single su-

preme cause of all things, an original energy, the same with the demiurgos of the Greek sages. Nothing can be more sublime than the simple greatness with which they spake of the maker of the world. In order most expressively to indicate him they called him by no name. A name, said they, is merely wanted to distinguish: he who is **ONLY** needeth no name; for there is no one with whom he can be confounded. Under an ancient statue of Isis were written the words *I am what is*; and on a pyramid at Sais *I am what is, and was, and will be; no mortal, has uplifted my veil*. No one might enter the temple of Serapis who did not wear on his breast or forehead the name Jao or Je-ha-ho, a name nearly the same with the Hebrew Jehovah, and probably of like signification and origin. No name was pronounced in Egypt with more veneration than this name Jao. In the hymn, which the hierophant sang to the aspirants, this was the first clue given of the nature of the deity. He is only, of himself, and from him are all things.

An essential preliminary ceremony to every initiation was circumcision, to which even Pythagoras had to submit, before his admission to the Egyptian mysteries. This circumcision was to designate a more intimate fraternity between the partakers of it, and a nearer relation to the Godhead than was supposed to belong to the uncircumcised. With these views Moses afterwards employed it among the Hebrews.

In the inmost of the temple various holy utensils were exhibited to the aspirant which expressed a hidden meaning. Among these was a sacred box called the ark of Serapis, originally perhaps an emblem of hidden wisdom; but which, after the institution had degenerated, only served as a mystery-show-box for juggling priestcraft. To carry this ark was a privilege of priesthood, who were therefore called *cistophoroi*. To none but the hierophant was it allowed to open the lid of this box, or even to touch it. Had any one the rashness to peep in, he would immediately become, it was reported, insane.

In the Egyptian mysteries certain hieroglyphic figures of divinities occurred which were compounded of various animal forms. The sphinx is a figure of this kind, and is probably emblematic of omnipotence, being compounded of portions of the most powerful of animals, of the eagle, of the lion, of the bull, of the man. The bull especially, or Apis, was most frequently employed as the sym-

bol of power, and is called in the more ancient dialect *cherub*.

These mystic figures, to which only the Epopets had a key, gave to the mysteries a sensual outside, which imposed on the people, and in no small degree resembled the public worship. Superstition, therefore, derived fresh strength from the exterior garb of the mysteries; although behind the curtain it might be laughed at.

It is, however, very comprehensible, that this pure deism should live in harmony with idolatry; for although it undermined it from within, from without it afforded support. This dissonance between the religion of the priests and of the vulgar was excusable in the founders of the mysteries, from the necessity of the case, and was of two evils the lesser; as there was more probability of conquering the mischiefs arising from the concealment of truth, than of withstanding those which arise from its premature disclosure. But when, by degrees, unworthy members had insinuated themselves into the circle of the initiated, &c. the institution had lost its primitive purity; that secrecy, which was originally a mere prudential precaution, was made the essence and object of the institution; and, instead of endeavouring to dispel the gloom of superstition, and to prepare the people for supporting a more perfect day, its members became conspirators against instruction, and misled the multitude into grosser darkness. Priest-craft superseded the purity of the original intention; and an institution, planned to keep alive the knowledge of the only God, became a powerful medium of support to idolatry, and a mean of intercepting by oaths of secrecy the acknowledgement of that contempt for the popular religion which its members might else have diffused through the community. Hierophants, in order to retain the more ascendancy over their pupils, multiplied the grades of initiation, and affected constantly to reserve something for the future satisfaction of the aspirant. His progress was intercepted or amused by theatric ceremonies and tricks, until at length the very key to their hieroglyphs, and the purport of their mystic forms, were lost; and that passed for the whole truth which was originally nothing but its veil.

It is difficult to ascertain whether the education of Moses coincided with the better times of this institution, or with the beginning of its declension: probably with the latter, to judge from some foolish

mummers which the Hebrew law-giver borrowed, and from some exceptionable tricks which he transferred. But the spirit of the original founder was not yet evaporated; and the doctrine of the unity of the Creator of the world still rewarded the curiosity of the initiated.

This doctrine, whose inevitable consequence could not but be a decided contempt for polytheism, was the rich treasure which the young Hebrew derived from the mysteries of Isis. Therein he also became better acquainted with the powers of nature, which then formed an object of secret science, and which afterwards enabled him to perform wonders, and even to rival or excel the magicians of Pharaoh in his juggleries. His after conduct shews that he was a skilful pupil, and had attained the highest grade of initiation.

In this same school he collected a mass of hieroglyphic and mystic knowledge and ritual, which his inventive genius turned to account. He had explored the whole region of Egyptian wisdom; thought over the whole system of its priesthood; weighed its advantages and disadvantages against each other; and had taken a piercing view of its whole scheme of state-craft.

How much time he spent in the schools of the priests is unknown; but his late political conspicuity makes it probable that he had not devoted less than twenty years to the study of the mysteries and of the legislation. This discipline does not, however, appear to have excluded him from conversancy with his nation; or to have prevented his observing the inhuman oppressions under which it laboured.

This Egyptian education did not suppress his nationality. The ill-usage of his people reminded him he was a Hebrew, and struck deep in his bosom. The more he began to feel himself, the more he felt for the burdens of his fellow-countrymen. He once beheld a Hebrew suffering under the blows of an Egyptian task-master: the sight overpowered his patience, and he slew the Egyptian. The deed came out: his life was endangered; he had to leave Egypt, and to seek refuge in the Arabian wilderness. This flight is placed by some so late as the fortieth year of his life: it is enough for us to know, that he could no longer be very young when it ensued.

III. With the exile of Moses begins a new æra of his life; and, if we would understand his future political appearance



in Egypt, we must follow his Arabian banishment. A bloody hate for the oppressors of his nation, and the knowledge acquired among the priests of Egypt, accompanied him to the desert. His soul was full of ideas and projects, and nothing disturbed its broodings in the unpeopled waste.

The original documents describe him as keeping the sheep of the Bedouin Arab, Jethro. This deep descent from his lofty views and hopes in Egypt to a cattle-herd in Arabia—the future ruler of men now the hireling of a nomade—how painful to an aspiring mind!

And must all that the industry of youth and the experience of age had collected perish in deedless inutility? His soul cannot bear the thought. He struggles against destiny. The wilderness shall not absorb his powers: his fancy embraces the interest of the oppressed. A parity of fortune draws him still closer to his landmen. In Egypt, he would have become a mystagogue or a general: in Arabia, the huge idea ripens—"I will redeem Israel."

But what possibility of executing this project? The impediments are beyond ken which resist the enterprise, and the greatest are those to be expected from the very nation he aspires to serve. A nation without unanimity or confidence, without courage or public spirit, its enthusiasm wholly quenched in the dungeon-damps of four centuries of thralldom. A nation no less unworthy than incapable of the benefit he predestines for it. From them what can he expect? without them what can he effect? He must begin then by rendering them capable of this benefit, by reviving that sentiment of the dignity of human nature which habits of subjection had stifled, by rekindling hope, confidence, heroism, and enthusiasm.

Such sentiments have for their basis a real or imaginary trust in one's own force: and whence shall the slaves of Egyptians imbibe this? Suppose his eloquence to hurry them forward for a moment, will not this artificial inspiration desert them at his greatest need? Will they not more patiently than ever drop back into their habitual servility?

And now the disciple of Egyptian priest and state-craft comes to aid the Hebrew. He recollects the methods, by which a small number of priests at Heliopolis were accustomed to move at their will millions of rude and savage men. This instrument was no other than a confidence in super-terrestrial protection, and a belief in supernatural powers. In

the visible world he could discover no remedy of the mind equal to the inspiration of courage into the servile; he sought it in the invisible. He found nothing earthly to which their confidence could be attached; he sought something heavenly. Hopeless of awaking sufficient trust in their own force, he brought to them a God possessed of all force. Once confident in him, they are become bold and strong: and the fire is kindled, at which every other requisite virtue may be inflamed. If he can pass for the organ of this God, his brethren are become a rod in his hands, the companions of his guidance, and pliant to his will. But what god shall he announce, and how secure their belief? Shall he announce to them the true God, the Demiurgos, or the Jao, in whom he himself believes, the keblah of the mysteries?

To an ignorant populace, like that of his nation, how could he ascribe even the remotest symptom of capability for a truth, which was the patrimony of very few of the sages of Egypt, and the power of comprehending which implies a high degree of enlightenment. How could he flatter himself with the hope, that the dregs of Egypt would understand, what among the select of the country only the best could comprehend?

But, suppose him to have succeeded in impressing upon the Hebrews the knowledge of the true God; this God would not have been of use in their condition; the knowledge of him would rather have been detrimental than favourable to the success of their enterprise. The true God interested himself no more about the Hebrews than about any other nation. The true God could not fight exclusively for them; for them unhinge the pivots of nature, and reverse its orderly movements. The true God would leave them to fight out their quarrel with the Egyptians, as he is wont, without miraculous interference; such a God suited not the purpose of Moses.

Shall he then announce to them a fabulous divinity against which his reason rebels, and which the mysteries had taught him to despise? For this his understanding is too informed, his heart too sincere. The enthusiasm which inspired him would have relaxed beneath so contemptible and hypocritical a task; undelighting in so artificial a deception, he would have fallen off in the courage to persevere. Besides, he not only aspires to liberate, but in due time to liberalise his people. He builds for a long posterity.

He chose then truth for his substratum.

How

How reconcile these contradictions? The true God he could not reveal to the Hebrews; because they were incapable of comprehending his attributes. A false one he chose not to reveal, out of scorn for criminal artifice. It remained that he should announce to them his own true God, in a fabulous manner.

He ascribes therefore to his true God those attributes which coincided with the notions of the Hebrews, and their actual wants. He accommodates his Jao to the local circumstances, and to the prejudices of his people, and thus arises his Jehovah.

In the minds of the people he finds indeed some belief in divine things; but this belief had degenerated into the coarsest superstition. The superstition he has to eradicate, the belief he has to preserve; the nature of the superstition suggests to him the means. According to the general opinion of those times, each nation was under the guardianship of a peculiar national God; and it was gratifying to national vanity to hear its God lifted up above the gods of other nations. The divinity of these other Gods was not thereby denied; they also were recognized, but supposed, at least within the precincts of any national God, to be feeble in comparison with him. On this popular error Moses gratified his truth. He made the demiurgos of the enlightened into the national God of the Hebrews; but he went one step further.

Not satisfied with merely describing this national God as the most powerful of Gods, he described him as the *only* God, hurling all others into their original nothing. He makes him, indeed, an exclusive property of the Hebrews; but at the same time subjects to him all other nations and all the powers of nature. And thus to the idol which he fashioned for the Hebrews, he attached the two most important attributes of the true God, unity and omnipotence, and made them the more impressive by means of this human veil.

The childish vanity of being exclusive favourites of the deity was now to operate in behalf of truth, and to become a vehicle for the doctrine of an only God. This is, indeed, a new error overthrowing an old one; but an error much nearer to the truth than that which it overthrew; and to this accompaniment of error the truth was in reality indebted for its own reception; its diffusion could only be obtained by this foreseen misunderstanding.

What could the Hebrews have done with a philosophic God? But with this national God they could and did do wonders. Reflect a moment on the situation of the Hebrews; so ignorant as to estimate the power of the gods, by the fortune of the nations under their protection. Abandoned and oppressed by men, they suppose themselves forsaken also by all the gods. The same relation which they bear to the Egyptians, they suppose to subsist between their God and the gods of the Egyptians. He is therefore a small light beside their lights; and doubts are even entertained if there be any. All at once it is announced to them, that they too have their protector in the host of heaven; that he is awaked from his repose, and his girding himself with strength to make head against their enemies.

This annunciation of their God is, henceforward, like the call of a general to enlist under his victorious banners. If this general displays immediately proofs of his might, or has been known of old, a giddy enthusiasm will often be caught by the most fearful; and this Moses took into consideration.

The conversation which he holds with the apparition in the burning bush exposes to us the doubts he entertained, and the manner in which he answered them to himself. Will my unhappy countrymen trust in a God who has so long neglected them, who at once drops as it were from the clouds, whose name they have never heard, who for centuries has been an idle spectator of their wrongs? Will they not rather consider the Gods of their mighty oppressors as the more powerful? This was the next thought that must occur to the prophet, and how does he meet the difficulty? By making his Jao into the God of their fathers, by thus associating with his name every marvellous national tradition, and thus making him into an old and familiar God. But in order to show that hereby was meant the true and only God, and to prevent all confounding of him with the idols of superstition, he assigns to him the hallowed name pronounced in the mysteries. *I am that I am.* Tell thy people Israel *I am* hath sent thee.

The divinity really bore this name in the mysteries: but to the stupid Hebrews it could not but be unintelligible. It conveyed to them no idea; and Moses might have had better success with some other name, but he preferred this inconvenience to endangering his favourite ob-

jects



ject, that of really revealing to the Hebrews the God revered in the mysteries of Isis. As it is clear that the Egyptian mysteries flourished long before Jehovah appeared to Moses in the burning bush, the incident is remarkable that he should give himself the very name appropriated to him in the mysteries of Isis.

But it was not enough for Jehovah to announce himself to the Hebrews as a well-known God, as the God of their fathers. It was necessary he should reveal himself as a God of might, if they were to put confidence in him; and this was the more necessary, as their fortunes in Egypt were not favourable to the attribution of any great powers to their patron. Moreover he was announced by the mediation of another: on this man therefore was to be bestowed extraordinary qualities, if the might and greatness of the sender was to be made known.

If therefore Moses was to justify his legation, it required the support of extraordinary deeds. That he accomplished such will hardly be disputed. How he accomplished them, and in what manner the relation of them is to be understood, may be left to the individual interpretation of every one.

The narrative, in which the legation of Moses has been recorded, had all the requisites which fitted it to inspire the Hebrews with complete belief. This was what belonged to it; among us the like impression is no longer necessary. We may be allowed to think that, if the Creator of the universe chose to appear in the form of a flame or of wind to any man, it would be indifferent to him whether that man were bare-foot or no. But to the Hebrews it was necessary to typify the emotion of awe by that external token with which they were familiar, and which was already in use in the mysteries. In like manner he proceeds with respect to the impediment in his speech. And throughout he describes most circumstantially and individually those things which were likely to the Israelites, as well as to us, to appear most difficult to conceive. Let us now resume what has been said, and briefly recapitulate the plan formed by Moses in the desert.

He aspired to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, and to put them in possession of independence, of a country and of a constitution of their own. But as he well knew the difficulties which would oppose this undertaking, as he knew that little reliance could be placed on their courage or enthusiasm, and that his eloquence

was unequal to overcoming the habitual servility of the people, he thought it necessary to announce to them a more than human guide and guardian, and to assemble them under the banner of a divine leader.

He gave them therefore a God for their deliverer from Egypt: and as it is necessary to obtain another land instead of that they had forsaken, and to obtain it sword in hand, he endeavoured to preserve their force united by the bond of common laws and of a political constitution. As a priest and statesman, he knew that religion is the strongest and most indispensable prop of every constitution: he uses therefore the God their deliverer also in his subsequent legislation, and announces him with those attributes which suited his new destination. For legislation, for the deity of a permanent community, no other than the true God would avail: institutions founded on falsehood cannot endure. But the understandings of his people being too blunt to comprehend in all its purity the religion of reason and of nature, he addresses their imagination; he bribes their prejudices by the description of attributes suited to vulgar apprehension, by the enumeration of services delightful to their coarse ambition. He borrows for his deity a heathen garb, and is content that his followers should venerate this garb alone. And thus he accomplishes the infinitely important service of founding a state-religion on the pillar of truth, so that a future reformer would have no occasion to *subvert* his fabrick, which is the inevitable result of any attempt to improve and to purify the *false* religions.

All the other states of his and the ensuing ages were founded on deception, on error, on polytheism: although in Egypt a secret circle was found who had just notions of the Supreme Being. Moses, himself one of this circle, and owing to it his better ideas of the divine nature, is the first who ventures not merely to proclaim the secret of the mysteries, but to make it the basis of his national institutions. He became therefore for the benefit of the world a *betray*er of the *mysteries*, and distributed over a whole community what had hitherto been a property of the select. It is true that with his new religion he could not communicate understanding to his people: and in this the Egyptians of Egypt had still the advantage: they perceived by the evidence of their reason a truth, of which the Hebrews were made the blind be-  
lievers.

